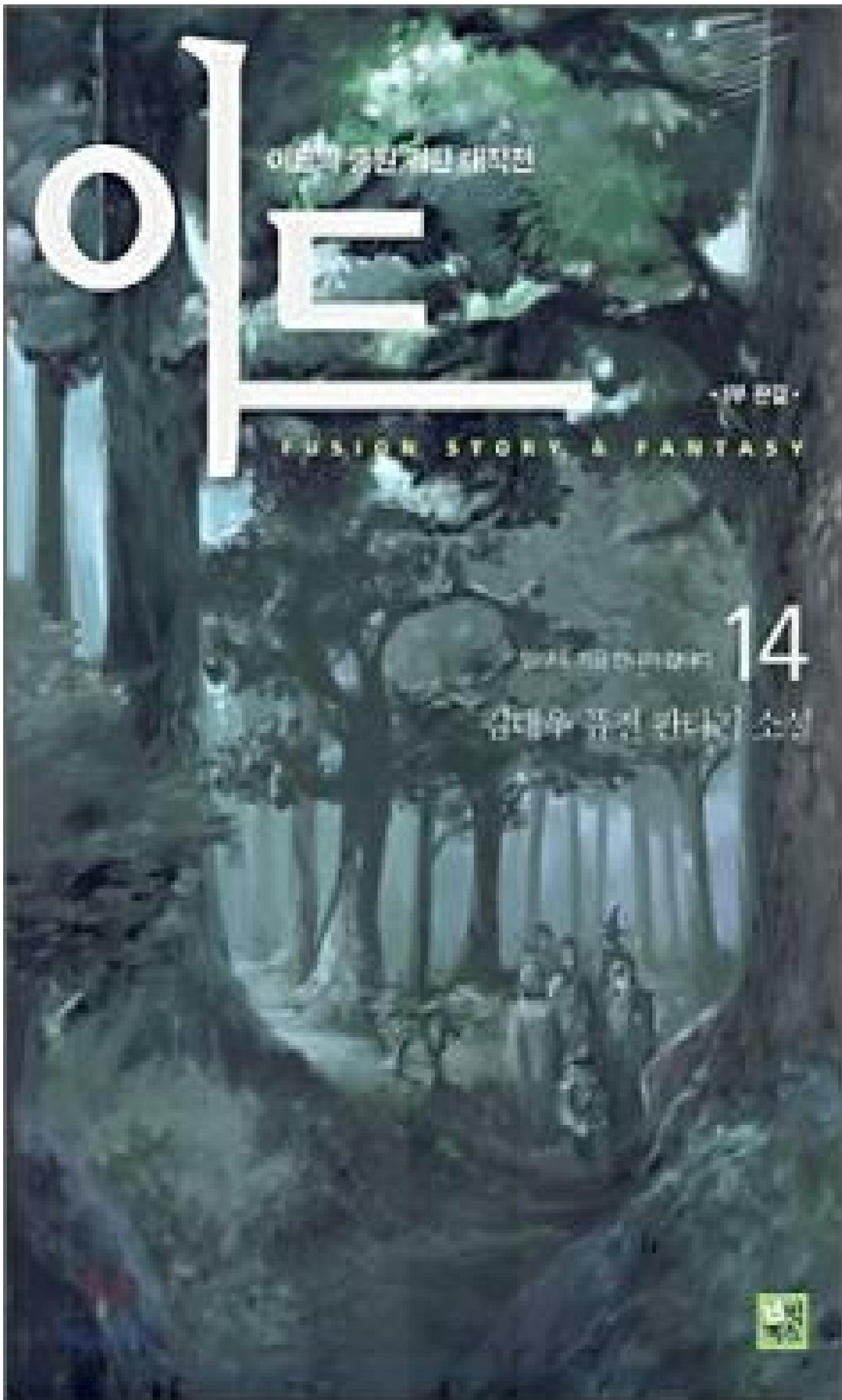




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전투장면



ID - Volume 01 Chapter 01-03

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Chapter 1

This chapter is brought to you by AnmesicCat and Masadeer.

Chapter 1

Part 1: AnmesicCat, and Masadeer

Just like a vortex, blinding lights spiralled in from all directions. A feeling of weightlessness spread throughout my entire body.

The bracelet in my arms suddenly emitted light, enveloping my body and swallowed me whole.

Suddenly, several objects passed over my head.

What is it? Gradually, my consciousness faded.

Drip drip...

The sound of falling water droplets. Judging from the sound, it seems like I'm in a cave.

“Ugh... This is... my head.”

I took a look around however, I saw nothing but darkness. Where am I?

‘I remember falling into a strange place, but what is this place?’

After taking a look around the area, I realized that the cave had really tall ceiling. Therefore there was only one direction left to go; deeper into the cave.

“Whoa. I've never seen a cave like this before”

I felt stupefied. I followed the light that lead me deeper and deeper into the cave and then...

“Ugh, is this a dream? Ouch, ouch, ouch... it hurts”

I pinched my cheeks real hard. I didn't think it was a stupid idea.

What? You think it was stupid of me to have done that? That's only because you don't understand the situation TT^TT.

I examined my body, to see if I was injured anywhere. Nothing out of the ordinary, except that the troublesome bracelet I was wearing is now missing.

'Since there's only one direction, let's go~!'

The cave was surprisingly large. It was bright, yet also dark and mysterious.

The light came from a small spherical object on the wall.

"How can that small thing light up the entire cave... Anyway, let's go further in..."

I kept walking. I did not know how long I've been walking for. I lost my sense of time since I was inside the cave. After walking for a long time, I finally reached the end of the cave. However, it did not seem to lead outside. And worse...

"This breathing sound seems to come from a large animal... What..."

I used Boh Buhb¹ to keep my footsteps silent and to progress further into the cave. And I saw...

'What is that thing.... I have never seen this kind of beast before'

Once again, I carefully reexamined what I saw. It had a large body that emitted golden light. From where I stood, I was unable to see its entire body. It had a long neck, golden wings, long tail, and four feet. On the top of its head lies a horn. The beast seems to be asleep. It was breathing deeply with its eyes closed.

In front of its head, there is a small altar. And on top of the altar lies an unusual looking sword.

'I've never seen that type of sword before and I've certainly never seen that kind of animal. I'm not from here, right? Where the hell am I?'

After much deliberation, I decided to pick up the sword, just in case the beast decided to attack me, I could use it to defend myself... Although having a sword against this kind of beast probably wouldn't matter much...

'Because I do not want to wake it up, the best option is to use dop-gong-

neoung² to not reveal my presence.'

I used Boh Buhb so my feet wouldn't touch the ground, and kicked a gust of air to fly towards the sword. I landed in front of the sword's altar.

The sword had a strange aura surrounding it. It had a white handle covered with unusual patterns, wrapped in a red scabbard. The sword was also embedded with a jewel that's emitting a strange light.

I stared at the sword and felt as if it was staring back right at me.

'No way... Oh sh–! It is!' (as in it IS staring back at Chun-Hwa)

I had an ominous feeling and so I turned around, and found two shining golden eyes..

Unlike a wild beast, it was calm and tranquil. they were eyes filled with strength and wisdom.

Silently, we stared at each other for some time.

And then I made a shocking revelation The beast can speak!

"How did you get in here?"

"Speak....."

"Did you not hear me? I asked you how did you get here?"

'Let's calm down. This isn't Jungwon anymore, but somewhere else. Remain calm...'

This is indeed a rare experience. I turned to looked at him face to face and said.

"Hmm... Umm... My name is Ye Chun Hwa... Ah. I don't know how I got here, or where this place is."

'Hmm... Maybe I shouldn't have told him my name'

After a few seconds, it spoke again.

"Hmm... You don't' seem to be lying. You said your name was Ye Chun Hwa? Throughout the entire continent, I have never heard that kind of name."

"If you have never heard it in this continent, where exactly is this place?"

Since he was the one who started the conversation... Let's get some

information from him.

“This place is located at the very edge of the continent of Gressen. That’s why I have never heard of a name such as yours until now.”

I was dumbfounded while I listened to his explanation.

‘Gressen... I don’t think I’ve ever heard of it... Gressen... How did I get here... He said something really strange... I need to get more information from him.’

Seeing how I was standing there motionless with a bemused expression, he asked abruptly.

“If you are not from this world, how are you able to understand what I am saying?”

Good question, really smart for a beast.

“I don’t know... I don’t know how I am able to speak this language... But I can speak it fluently as if I’ve been doing it all my life.”

After listening to my confused answer, he said quietly.

“Wake up”

Suddenly my confusion ceased and my mind felt calm and collected.

“Do you feel better now?”

“Yes. My mind feels clear... Were you the one who did it?”

“Yes, it is Dragon Magic. Do you not know what magic is?”

I shook my head to his question. I have never heard of it. And so I asked.

“You said you have never heard of a name similar to mine?”

Just like how I answered his question, The enormous beast nodded.

“I don’t think you are from this continent. How did you get here?”

“I am not sure. I was on top of a mountain and I fell off of it. When I came to, I was already inside this cave. I saw a strange light, and followed it. That’s how I ended up here.”

“Well I’m not too sure of it either Ye Chun Hwa, but I think you passed through from another dimension.”

What does...

“Another dimension? What does that mean?”

“It is difficult to explain quickly. To put it simply, God created multiple worlds and in between them lies a wall. This wall is called a dimension.”

“Then, how do I go over the dimension again?”

“I do not know. Only the God of Creation, and the Origins of Light and Darkness can cross them. Other than them, no other God or Dragon Lords can pass through the dimensional wall... But maybe not... Since you have crossed it, there might be a way for you to go back.”

I was perplexed by his words. What the hell... Is this the God of Creation’s prank? No, no, it can’t be, since he’s a God. Hah~ I feel like crying. I sat on the altar where the sword laid, and the beast watched over me quietly. After calming myself down, I decided to ask him a few more questions.

“Just what are you doing here? Before anything else, what is your name?”

“Heh~, you’re the only human I know who isn’t afraid of a Dragon. And my name is Greydrone.”

“Greydrone? What a weird name. So what exactly are you doing here?”

Then Greydrone pointed at the sword and said.

“I am here to protect that sword. I have been protecting it for over ten thousand years.”

“Ha~ Why do you need to protect it? Does that mean you’re over ten thousand years old?!”

“That is correct. However, even I don’t know my exact age. I am probably around fifteen thousand years old.”

“Then do I have to speak formally?... Sir?”

“You don’t have to do that. You can speak as you were before.”

I felt sorry for him. To be doing nothing but protect the sword for ten thousand years. I glanced at the sword and tried to touch it. But Greydrone urgently prevented me from doing so.

"That sword has a mind and soul of its own. It will destroy anyone who touches it, if it does not deem them fit to be its master."

"Ha... Ha... It's a great sword. Who the hell would have made something like this? No! Who is its master? Ignore that question. You are protecting it because there's no owner, right?"

The Dragon heaved a huge sigh after I finished all my questions and started talking. He must have been really bored...

Part 2: AnmesicCat, Krito, and Masadeer.

"Its name is Lamia.

It was forged by many. However the first one to create it was me, the Lord of all Dragons, then other Dragon Lords, then the High Gods of Light and Darkness...

In the beginning, I made it for my own amusement; I wanted the best weapon for myself. And so the High Gods and the Dragon Lords were incited.

I used golden metal and forged it with the best of my abilities. The other Dragon Lords and the High Gods also invested their divine magic, which formed a God's metal named Eclipse.

For the handle of the sword, I used a part of my own Dragon's heart. I also used the leather hide taken from the King of all Red Dragon to make its scabbard. I spent over a few thousand years before the sword was finally completed.

The day Lamia was completed, I tried to wield the sword, but alas, I was rejected. Even when I tried to forcefully hold on to the handle, its strength was greater than mine.

When I tried to give it to the Dragon Lords, and the High Gods who helped with making the sword, they too were rejected by Lamia.

Because Lamia was a product of combined powers of the High Gods, Dragon Lords, and my own, its power is comparable to our united powers. Therefore they could not become Lamia's Master.

The only Master whom Lamia would probably accept is the God of Creation and the Origin of Light and Darkness.

That is the reason why Lamia is sealed here. The only ones who know of Lamia now are the High Gods and myself. The other Dragon Lords have already passed on."

The moment he was done telling the story of how Lamia was created, he glanced at it weakly.

After listening to his story, I examined the sword carefully.

"Is this sword really that great?"

I do not know how I can judge the value of the sword named Lamia when I don't have much knowledge about this place. All I knew was sword is amazing because the High Gods fused their powers into it.

[...Nim...]

While I took a look at the sword, I thought I heard a small and quiet sound calling out to me. As if I've been possessed, I stretched out my hand towards the sword.

My mind snapped out of the hypnosis but my body still moved on its own. Soon after, I realised that my hand was already touching the handle of the sword. Suddenly, the voice of a beautiful woman echoed throughout my mind.

[I, Lamia, have found you fit to be my master, and I am willing to make a contract with you. You, who will be my master, do you promise to stay with me for all eternity?]

'... What ... The...'

[Do you promise to stay with me forever?]

She asked the same exact question again.

'Will any harm fall upon me?'

[Absolutely no harm will befall upon you. Do you promise to stay with me forever?]

But the voice sounds beautiful...

‘Sure, why not.’

[The promise of eternity has been made. Even the God of Creation cannot dissolve it. I am Lamia. I will be by your side forever. We will be together forever.
]

When my eyesight returned, I saw a lady looking at me while smiling brightly and then I lost consciousness.

Soon after, I regained consciousness, and it no longer felt like the ground was trying to swallow me whole. With a clear head, I stood up.

Hooo.. Is there anyone else that wakes up like this?

In front of me stood a middle aged man. Although he had a gentle appearance, a strong aura surrounded him.

“If you’re awake, then explain to me what just happened.”

‘This is the voice of the Dragon I just met, Greydrone!’

“No need to be so surprised. It’s the magic called Polymorph...”

After staring at him for a while, I felt a tingling sensation coming from my hand.

When I looked down at my hand, I found myself holding a sword. The sword, Lamia. It almost felt weightless.

I looked at Greydrone who was standing in front of me and asked.

“Why is this....”

“That’s what I would like to ask! You grabbed that thing and all of a sudden light poured out. What happened? Did it accept you as its master?”

“I don’t know. Suddenly, there was a lady’s voice who asked me if I want to be with her forever. So, I said that as long as it does not harm me, I will agree to it. After I saw a vision of her, I lost my consciousness.”

Greydrone thought for a moment... faced me and said.

“Is that so? It has finally found its master? Then my problem has been solved.”

“Master? What?! Are you telling me that I’ve just became the sword’s master?”

Greydrone nodded his head.

“You are now the master of the sword who holds infinite powers.”

“Hey! I don’t need this kind of thing”

“All that matters is how you use that power. Sixteen thousand years... My body has already passed the limit. Now that I don’t have to protect the sword anymore, I can finally rest.”

“Hey! What does that mean? Are you going to die?”

“Yes. The average lifespan of a Dragon is ten thousand years. I have lived an additional five thousand years, but my body’s limit have passed thousands of years ago. Now, I can finally rest.”

“Then what am I supposed to do? The only... Dragon I know in this world is you. What am I going to do?!”

Greydrone stared at me briefly and laughed.

“Then how about we do this. Because of me, some of the Dragon’s magics and skills should have been lost. I will teach them to you.”

“What nonsense are you talking about now?’

“I will hand everything to you, including my identity. With it, Dragons will treat you the way they treat me. All you have to do is find a Dragon Lord and teach him a couple of things. However, this kind of favor cannot be asked of by anyone...”

“Alright. I will accept your request. However, since I do not know anyone nor do I know my way around this world, you will have to guide me there.

“You don’t have to worry about that. As I’ve said early, you will gain knowledge of everything I know. But for it to be yours there will be some obstacles. And speaking of directions, I do not exactly know how to get there. I have never left this place for over seven thousand years. Now, get ready. Ha, ha, ha! Now that I think about it, this is hilarious. A human with a sword of a God’s, a Dragon’s intelligence and power. If you do well for yourself, you could even become a High

God.”

Uh... Is he making fun of me? While looking at me, he laughed quietly and began chanting a magic spell.

I give my everything to you... Inside you, I shall live again.

Suddenly, Greydrone’s body radiated a bright shining light, and something in my hand started to shake.

[Master, this is a power transfer magic. Should I block it?]

From within the light, I heard a voice. But to block it...

“No. Don’t block it, this is not an attack. Do you understand?”

[Understood.]

Part 3: AnmesicCat, Haikai, Krito, and Masadeer.

At that moment the shining light enveloped my body, and I lost consciousness.

Now that I think about it, haven’t I passed out way too many times. I don’t remember my body being this weak...

I woke up naturally as if I had simply fallen asleep.

Although the surrounding area was still filled with light, Greydrone’s presence was nowhere to be found.

“Is this what he called ‘Dragon’s Magic’? Not only was his memory transferred to me, but also his skills and abilities. And because of this, I cannot see his corpse. But this is awkward. What on earth am I supposed to do with a Dragon’s heart mana crystal?”

With this Dragon’s heart mana crystal, It’ll be funny if I get mistaken for someone who is able to use Magic. However... I held up the sword and started talking to it. Since there wasn’t anyone else around, no one will think I look like a lunatic.

“Was it you who talked to me earlier?”

Again, I heard that same voice in my head.

[That is correct, Master]

“Um... You said your name was Lamia, right?”

[Yes. That is correct, Master]

“There’s no need to call me Master. Just call me Chunhwa.”

[Yes, Chunhwa-Nim]

Haa~ This isn’t going to work?

But first should we get out of here?

“Lamia, you know the way to get out of here?”

[There is no way out of here. This place has no exit. However, we can use teleport.]

But how are we going to teleport...

“That would be possible, but I don’t understand everything in Greyclone’s memories. It will take me some time before I can fully understand everything. Can’t you do something about it?”

[I understand. Then, where would you like to teleport to?]

“What is around the area?”

[I will now project an image in front of you, Chunhwa-nim. Image Trap.]

Then an image appeared in front of me. It seemed like I was viewing the actual place, only in a smaller size.

“Hmm... This red dot must be where we are.”

On the projected image, I pointed at the center of the mountain, and the it zoomed in at the forest in front of it.

“Then let’s go there, and from there we’ll reach a town shortly. Yeah, that would be good...”

[Understood. Then we will teleporting to the destination now.]

Suddenly, a strange person appeared in the large forest surrounding the giant

mountain. The person was around 17~18 years of age, judging from the person's body and face. That boy...no the person looked closer to a girl. On the girl's waist hung a scabbard that dimly glowed with a reddish light, which was wrapped around a sword that was slightly longer than the average bastard sword. While the handle appeared to be white, the blade was not visible since it was hidden in it's scabbard. Also, the boy's clothing was something you would not see in the Arusan.

“Hwa~ the trees are humongous... The forest also seemed dense...”

The boy was Chunhwa. He used Lamia to teleport to his current location. He continued to look around the forest because he has never seen a dense forest with giant trees surrounded by a large mountain.

‘Hu~ I can't believe I have to find a God in this unknown world. I think the nearest village is that way?’

“First I have to choose a destination since I can't travel to a random place to find a God... How am I suppose to find a God anyway?...”

“Hmm... Yes, let's try visiting a temple first. A temple must have some clues on how to find a God...”

The moment Chunhwa finished speaking his mind, an explosion occurred 10 meters away, followed by horrible shrieks.

“Kkeuek ...”

“....*Keuak*”

“Hey watch it. Ilran, what are you trying to do casting it so close to us?”

The voices seemed to have came from a young man, and a middle aged man. followed.

“There's nothing I could do. It takes a long time to cast a spell. And if I want to get far away from them, I'd have to run and I can't do that. Besides, no one got hurt.”

This time, it was a woman's voice showing displeasure with his action.

“But still, you should have been careful. We were lucky this time around, it was

very close call.”

As the conversation continued on, the voices seemed to be getting closer and closer. Suddenly, a group of 5 people appeared. Four people were arguing, and there was one aloof lady...

‘Her ears are rather long... Maybe she’s not human? Let’s try searching through Greyclone’s memory... She is an Elf, High Elf, a really rare species of Elf... (Author’s Note: The protagonist is definitely human and not some artificial intelligent. And the appearance of the Elf here did not fit my original intention ^^;;)’

The people arguing consist of a middle aged man holding a staff, a teenage boy wearing leather armor, a girl who is about the same age as the boy, and an unusual looking midget—in this world, it’s called a Dwarf. The Dwarf spoke with the loudest voice of them all.

And finally, the Elf was the first person to notice Chunhwa, however, she did not speak a word. Maybe it’s because she’s a High Elf? Then, the teenage girl noticed Chunhwa and said to the rest of the group.

“Umm... I didn’t think there would be anyone out here. Were you surprised because of the explosion?”

The teenage boy wearing a leather armor was the first person to speak, and approached him. I looked at him carefully before responding.

“No, it’s all right.”

“If that’s so, I’m glad to hear it. I am Gray and this is my friend Hael. This is Ilran and the Dwarf is Ilran’s friend Randolph. And the Elf’s name is Irlina. She’s with us because this forest is filled with monsters and we’re escorting her out of here. By the way, where are you from? I’ve never seen clothes like yours before.”

The person named Grey easily told Chunhwa things that he didn’t even ask. As Grey had mentioned, Chunhwa was wearing clothing from his hometown. The flamboyant clothing stood out and brought many curious stares even in his hometown. The clothing danced like waves with every movement, and looked very smooth.

‘After hearing their names, I don’t think I should introduce myself with my real name, Chunhwa. I’ll stand out, and would they even be able to pronounce it?’

“Ah, my name is... Id. I happened to find these clothes along the way. The clothes I was wearing got torn.”

The name Id was something Chunhwa instantly made up. To be more precise, it was a name he borrowed from Greydrone’s memories.

“But travelling alone in this forest is very dangerous.”

The Dwarf Randolph said to him after examining him intently. The Dwarf was a little suspicious of Id. Not only was he a stranger, but he was also wearing some weird looking clothes.

Part 4: AnmesicCat and Masadeer

“It’s dangerous? What do you mean by that?”

Chun Hwa, who did not understand his current situation, asked Randolph.

However, it was Ilran who answered him.

“He meant to say that this forest of Zion is home to many notorious monsters. That is the reason why only a group with skilled people. Did you really not know anything about this forest?”

He insidiously insinuated that they were skilled fighters. He chose his words well.

“No, I had no idea. I come from a faraway place in a small village, and I came to this place because I had business to take care of. So I have never heard of any rumors regarding this forest.”

Chun Hwa instantly came up with a story, which they easily believed.

This time, the girl named Hael spoke to him. She looks quite pretty.

“Well, if you’re on your way out of this forest, why don’t you join us.”
“Yeah, that would be great. Come with us.”

Right after Hael asked me to join them; Grey also encouraged me to join them.

Chun Hwa was glad that they asked him to join them, since he did not know the geography of the area.

‘That’s great. Because I don’t know the way, I can listen to all sorts of stories from them... Although, I could use Lamia’s Image Trap to get out of here.’

As he walked alongside them slowly, Chun Hwa, no Id, asked. (Author’s Note: From now on I will be using the name Id.) “By the way, where are you guys headed to?”

It was Grey who answered his question.

“We are going to... Well, we’re on a pilgrimage. Hael is a Priest of Ilan, and she’s on a mission to perform her duties as a Priest, and I followed her. Since I’m pretty skilled in swordsmanship, I took this as an opportunity to hone my skills and became her bodyguard. Then Ilran and Randolph followed us because they were worried about us.”

‘Ah~ So in short... They all follow Hael.’

However, he didn’t say anything about the Elf Irlina. Maybe they met her inside this forest and did not know much about her.

“And now our priority is to look for a temple. We ended up having to use all of our healing potions... By the way, where is Id-nim heading to?”

“That’s good. Although my purpose is a little different, I am also looking for a temple. If you don’t mind, I’d like to accompany you guys.”

In the end, no one voiced any complains about Id accompanying them. However...

“By the way, where is the High Elf heading to?”

She seemed to be very surprised at Id’s comment. An average person does not know how to differ between a regular Elf and a High Elf. The other members of the party were surprised as well.

“A High Elf? You mean to say that Irlina is a High Elf?”

Irlina quietly told me.

“How did you know I was a High Elf? A normal person would not be able to

recognize!"

"Ah... That's because I knew another High Elf. That's how I was able to tell."

"I think that lie might have been too obvious.'

Irlina turned her head away from Id after listening to his explanation. Id noticed she didn't entirely believe him.

'I don't blame her. Even I wouldn't believe myself. It is not possible to differ between a normal Elf and a High Elf by knowing one.' (It is the result of searching through Greydrone's memory.) "What kind of temple did you say you were looking for?"

(I'll describe the characters here. First of all, Id, he is young and about the same age as Hael and Grey who are currently 19 years of age. Ilran and the Dwarf Randolph is about 40 years of age. As for the Elf, wouldn't it be better to keep her mysterious?) The Priest, Hael, asked Id, since she had a relationship with the temple.

"I'm not looking for any specific temple. I just need to find a temple's Highest Priest or a temple that directly serves under the High Gods"

After listening to Id's explanation, there are many who would be curious. The three Gods whom Id is looking for were almost unheard of, therefore no temples served them. Of course, this information is also gathered from Greydrone's memory.

"So what are you going to be doing after you find the High Priest?"

"I'm going to ask about the people I'm trying to find. Rather than asking the Priests, I'm going to ask the Gods whom they serve directly."

Not only her, but everyone else seemed to be surprised at Id's declaration.

"Just who are you looking for that you have no other alternative but to ask the Gods directly about them? Furthermore, none of the Gods have answered anyone directly for over the last 100 years."

'Should I explain to them? Although I could, but it would take too long to explain.'

"Haha, it's a secret, so please understand."

After talking things out for a while, Id and his new companions exited the Forest of Zion and arrived at a town called Surlan.

We briefly stopped by the town for a day. Although we have decided upon our next destination, Irlina had another destination in mind.

“Maybe we should say our farewells here and head out separately.”

Id then asked her.

“Where will you be heading to?”

She looked up at Id, and with a smile, she said.

“I am going to find the place where a Golden Dragon resides. He has an item that I need to retrieve.”

Upon hearing the word “Dragon” everyone (All except Id that is ^^) looked at Irlina with a dumbfounded expression. How could she say that she’s visiting a Dragon as if she’s going for a picnic... It might be because she’s a High Elf; is what everyone thought... However to Id, it was a piece of good news. Eventually he had to visit a Dragon and this was a good opportunity.

“Irlina, if it’s possible, would you go with me after I visit the temple? I also have some business with Dragons.”

After listening to Id, Randolph interceded in their conversation.

“Hey, hey. Just what the hell do you think Dragons are? You cannot go visit a dragon just because you want to. Also by going to meet a Dragon means putting your lives on the line. Especially you Id. Although the High Elf has some chance of meeting a Dragon, do you think that a Dragon would meet with a normal huge such as yourself?”

‘Argh~ His voice is incredibly loud...’

“But Randolph, Dragons are known to be intelligent and wise, so they will at least listen to me. Furthermore, they will be happy with what I will be bringing to them.”

“Huh~ Are you even listening to me? Dragons are beast who liked living alone. They will not listen to you quietly. They will kill you immediately the moment you enter their territories.”

‘~He really does have a loud voice...’

“It’s okay, I’ll be alright. So how about it Irlina? Will you be willing to go with me?”

This time, Randolph shouted towards Irlina’s direction.

“Hey Elf, are you insane? Just what the hell do you think you will you be doing after you find a Dragon? Even if you’re a High Elf, do you think those arrogant Dragons will even bother to meet with you?”

“I will be alright. You have nothing to worry about. The Dragon I am searching for has some ties with my tribe. That’s why it’ll be fine.”

After Irlina’s response, Randolph stopped talking. Irlina looked at Id and answered the question he asked.

“Id, if you want to go together, I’m alright with it.”

Although Irlina does not completely trust Id, she was curious after he recognized her as a High Elf. Furthermore, Irlina was not in any rush to meet with a Dragon, therefore she did not mind waiting for Id and going with him. And she was also interested in why Id was looking for a Dragon.

After some discussion, the group has decided to visit the temple in a town called Kelvin. However, the group had to stop after about an hour of travelling since there were 20 people blocking their way. Wielding swords and axes amongst other weapons, they seemed to be bandits.

Ilran was the first person to say something.

“What do you think you guys are doing?”

“Are you seriously asking us that question? We know you have a lot of money after liquidating those precious gems. If you hand over all your money, no one will have to spill any blood.”

‘So they were nothing but mountain bandits that set their goal on killing us if we don’t hand over our money. Then the solution is as easy one...’

Now this situation requires some explanation. The day before, Id traded all the gems he acquired inside Greyclone’s cave since he didn’t have any money. Those gems, however, happened to be worth so much that he traded it for all the

money that the store had, which was approximately ten billion shillings.

And somehow, the mountain bandits got a hold of the information and waited for Id and his companions on this route.

Part 5: AnmesicCat and Masadeer

"I'm afraid we can't do that. Besides, aren't you guys at a disadvantage here? There's a Wizard on our side..."

Did he try to scare them off by saying they will be blown away by one spell? However by saying these words...

"Thank you for your warning, but you don't have to worry about us, we have our own ways of dealing with that."

Then the bandit with the long sword took out a staff with a fist-sized marble embedded in it.

Irlan was the first to notice and examined it and said.

"That staff... It can stop spells from being casted..."

"You seem to know what it is. I was lucky to get my hands on this and found out later that it is used to prevent magic spells from working."

As Id was listening to the bandit's explanation, he thought.

'I don't like the tone of his voice. *Smirk smirk* I should just... Just to confirm...'

But it was only Id who thought that way. No one knew of Id's skill (Author's Note: Even this guy [me, the author] does not know of Id's exact skills ^^) The party thought differently. Irlan quietly whispered to the rest of the party.

"Watch out everyone! That staff can prevent magic spells from being casted and dispel any spells for the next 20 minutes. And with so many people, they'll defeat us all..."

After listening to Irlan, Irlina commented.

"Although it can dispel any magic spell around the area, it can't dispel summoned spirits. From the looks of it, it can only dispel magic spells of six magic circles and under. I don't know who made it, but whoever he was, he was

pretty skilled."

"You are able to sense such things, Irlina? Amazing. However, I do not know of any seven magic circle spells. Do you know of any, Irlina?"

"Yes. But only to some extent... My Mana is still unstable and I am not able to control it well... I think it'll be better if I summon a spirit."

As Id listened to the party talking amongst themselves, he thought of the simplest idea.

"Hey, you know... I think it's easier if we were to break that guy's staff."

Ilran shook his head at Id's suggestion and started to explain.

"Id, what you have suggested is impossible. First of all, in order to break the staff, you'll need to close in on it, however, the other bandits would protect it. That would be a challenge itself. How can a person move fast enough to get near it? Furthermore, even if you get close enough to it, the staff is protected by a spell. It will not break easily."

It is a fact that it was a problem for a normal person. However, it was not a problem for Id.

'Hmm... Is that so? It doesn't seem all that impossible to me. It's not that hard to get close to it, and I have an amazing sword with me. So should I just go for it?'

"Well, wait a minute, if that's all I have to do, then it shouldn't be an issue..."

"But Id, that's impossible to do..."

Grey said as he shook his head.

"Don't worry... Now~ Just sit back and watch..."

After saying that, Id walked toward the bandit and suddenly disappeared.

Id reappeared once again when he was in front of the bandit who was holding the staff. Using Lamia, he destroyed the marble on the staff. He once again disappeared and reappeared in front the rest of the party. Despite all that, Lamia did not seemed to have moved from Id's waist. Except for the elf, no one even saw Id move.

However, even Irlina was unable to clearly see Id's movements.

When Id returned to his spot, no one said a word. Soon enough, people noticed the bandit who held onto the staff, fell onto his knees and appeared as if the wind was knocked out of him. He appeared too afraid to meet Id's eyes, and too terrified to move. Perhaps he was smarter than the rest, since none of the other bandits still had yet to realize what just transpired, and were still in battle stances, even after being beaten half to death. Soon after the bandits came to their senses and started to disperse.

Right after the bandits escaped, the party began to bombard Id with questions.

“Id... Just then... How did you...”

“You... How were you able to move like that?”

It was inevitable that the first question would be asked by Grey, a person who wields a sword, and Ilran, a wizard. However, Id was unable to answer those questions right away.

‘How am I supposed to explain this... Ah... Damn it...’

After thinking how to explain it for a few moments, Id finally said.

“Well, it's like this... I used a unique step with the appropriate combination of Mana (Ki).”

However his answer wasn't of any help to the both of them.

With some doubts, Ilran asked again.

“Id... What do you mean by that? I, myself, am quite knowledgeable when it comes to using magic spells. And I have never heard of the skill you've used. In addition, I have never seen a skill like the one you've used, and it didn't look like you were using any magic spell at all...”

‘Ha~ It doesn't seem he'll believe me. Oh well... I guess it's okay.’

The lowly race of humans... Is shaped as completely easygoing and oblivious.

“Ilran, the movement I've used is definitely not impossible. If you still doubt it, I could teach you how to use it for you to gain more information about it.”

Right after Id said that he was willing to teach the fast movement skill to Ilran, Grey was first to give a response.

“So Id, can you teach me that movement as well... Yes... Okay?”

Id then agreed to teach Grey. The other members of the party also wanted Id to teach them, and so he made a promise to everyone that he would teach them.

‘Ah, my stupid mouth... Why did I have to promise to teach everyone... It’ll be difficult to teach so many people...’

Well, it’s too late to regret it now...

Around lunch time, the party sat down near a river and ate their lunch while listening to Id’s explanation. After listening to his explanation, there were two people who were trying extremely hard to practice the movement.

Grey the Warrior, and Randolph the Dwarf. As a Warrior, Grey wanted to be able to move quickly to defeat his enemy, while Randolph, because of his short stubby legs he was incapable of agile movement, and was thus dissatisfied.

“Well... First I tell you how to move, then whenever we have time, I will teach you. Ah... I don’t know how long it’ll take to master the skill since it depends on the learning ability of the individual. First you have to learn how to use ki, which is something like Mana. However, ki has some similarities to Mana, but it also has its differences. Since Ilran knows more about Mana, I will ask him to please explain it to you.”

“Yes. Mana is the energy that is everywhere and evenly spread around. Mana is something that is necessary for all living organism to survive. However, there has not been a clear definition of what Mana really is. And as a Wizard, we need Mana source in order to cast our spells.”

‘Ah... Is that all what the people here know about? It’s a good thing that I didn’t explain what Greydrone knew. It would have been a major disaster...’

Greydrone’s vast knowledge knows no bounds. After Ilran’s explanation, Id consulted Greydrone’s memories for a more accurate explanation of the subject. But then again, Greydrone have acquired his vast knowledge from living for a really tome time...

As soon as Ilran stopped talking, Id continued.

“It is as you’ve heard. Mana is an energy that is dispersed around the continent. Ki, however, comes not from the outside surroundings, but from within your body. And by using that, You can bring out Geomgi (Sword Aura or Sword ki). You know what a Sword Aura is, correct?”

“Yes, of course I know of it. My dream is to be a Swordmaster who is able to use Sword Ki. But I’ve heard that it’s hard to achieve that level. Even here in Illinas, there are only three Swordmasters. Even other Kingdoms, don’t have that many. But why are you asking about it?”

As someone who is trying to become a Swordmaster, Grey knew a lot about the subject.

“So Sword Aura is brought out by using a sword and Ki. So how about using the inside of your body to bring out that Ki?”

Part 6: AnmesicCat, Junny, and Masadeer

The moment the assembled group heard Id’s proposal, they thought it was absolutely preposterous. Then Ilran said.

“Id, are you seriously saying that it’s possible? Because I have never heard of such things being possible...”

Irlina soon followed up Ilran’s statement. For an Elf such as herself, it was different to understand what Id was saying. Unable to understand human behaviour, she said.

“Ilran is right, Id. Even I have never seen or heard of anything like that. Please explain.”

‘Ha~ How is it that magic exists here, but they think what I’ve explained to them is impossible. It’s amazing that there are people in this world who can actually use Sword Aura. Of course, even a low-leveled swordsman can use a little bit of Sword Aura, after practicing swordsmanship for a really long time, though not efficiently.’

(Think about it this way ^^;; The more a person practices, the more they will

improve... Sorry.) “Well, that’s... Ha~ I’m guessing none of you have ever heard of acupuncture points...”

However, as Id had predicted, the party looked at each other cluelessly, looked back at Id and started shaking there heads. After looking at his clueless party members, Id felt his strength being drained from his body. I will have to teach them from the very beginning, starting from acupuncture points...

‘This will not work. I have to find some other way...’

Id tilted his head downwards and fell into a state of deep thought. All the members of the party stood still and stared at Id.

‘What is he doing?’

The party again looked at each other but no one knew what Id was thinking. So they continued staring at Id.

‘Well... I supposed I’ll have to teach them Boh Buhb since the skill itself is quite useful. And then I suppose... I could use the skill to teach them how to use Ki.’

Id lifted his head after gathering his thoughts together, and said to the party.

“Come to think of it, it is better for you to learn Boh Buhb, and from there we’ll move on to the next step, rather than me explaining it to you. But first, I think we should change location.”

The party agreed with Id’s opinion, packed their bags and placed them on top of their horses.

As they were riding their horses, Illan asked Id.

“Id, you are still so young. From whom did you learn all of this?”

“There wasn’t anyone in particular whom I learned from. I was able to learn them mostly from books I’ve read. Ah... Those books cannot be found here.”

“What do you mean by it’s impossible to be found here?”

‘Wow. He asks a lot of questions. Should I just tell him...’

“Haha... I’m sorry but that’s a secret ^~^;;”

By around dinner time, the party finally reached a small village. They rented the only room available at an inn, and ate. After finishing their meal, they

gathered at the inn's backyard.

Id compressed energy around his feet and walked around the backyard.

With each step Id took, his party members who were watching, found it to be nothing short of a miracle.

Id followed the footprint trail he made, back to where the rest of his party members stood and said.

"I'm sure you can all see the footprints I've made. All you have to do is follow them like I did. It shouldn't be hard since they are easy to spot."

But after a while, Id had to make another set of footprint trail since Randolph's short leg could not follow the first set of footprints Id created. Thus, Id had to create a second set of footprint made for Randolph, and Randolph alone.

When the party started to follow Id's footprints, Id couldn't help but laugh. Ilran in particular, being a Wizard, had very little physical aptitude. There were several times where his feet got tangled up, and he fell down. There were always two kinds of students, The good and the bad. The Elf Irlina, who was born with amazing reflexes and a flexible body, excelled. After a long while, when the party had learned the basic steps of Boh Buhb, Id erased the footprints.

For the next couple of days, Id taught the party several variations of Boh Buhb. However, it was not an easy task, since the party had to use the skill to move both quickly and continuously.

This was task especially difficult for both Ilran and Randolph since Wizards had low physical abilities, and Dwarves had stubby short legs.

Soon, Id and his party arrived at their destination, Kelvin.

Kelvin was known to be one of the three great cities of Illinas and in this huge city resides many Wizards and Priests.

There were also different Schools of Magic.

However the schools were divided by social classes. There was a school only for Nobles and there was school where even the common people could attend.

Originally, there was only one magic school but the Nobles refused to let their children learn with commoners, therefore a new school was established.

However, this did not give a good impression to the common people since the academic curriculums were the same.

Though it was called 'School of Magic for Commoners' it does not mean only the common people attended it. In fact, many Nobles who got along well with commoners attended there. Thus, the number of students attending two of the magic schools differ greatly.

When Id and his party arrived in Kelvin, whether it was by luck or not, there were Art Festivals being held by the two magic schools.

Although it was a festival hosted by the two schools, it was welcomed by every Kelvin resident, making it one of the biggest attractions in the city.

"Should we take a look around before we depart again?"

Grey, who answered Id's many questions about why there were so many people walking in the street, asked the party.

Grey's question was answered by one of the eldest in the party, Ilran.

"Let's go find a room in the nearest inn and put our luggage away. It seems there are a lot of good attractions."

Ilran said as he took a look around the surroundings.

As Hael watched him, she asked.

"Ilran, did you also attend a magic school here?"

"Haha. No, I did not. I learned from my master. Here, they only teach you the basic understanding of magic. So to learn higher level magic, you either have to read a lot of books and study on your own, or find yourself a good master. Since there are many students in one class, it's possible to teach all of them at once."

"That inn over looks good... The restaurant seems to serve good food too."

As Randolph was listening to his party members, he was also searched and found a good inn.

After looking at the inn, Grey said.

"It looks good. But do you think they will have any room available? There are a lot of people because of the festival."

“We don’t have a choice Rey. Let’s try going there first”

Hael called Grey with his nickname. The same one she used to called him when they were little kids...

As Id and his party entered the inn, a good looking man welcomed them.

“Welcome to the inn. Would you like to have some dinner or can I help you with something else?”

“Ah. Actually, we’re here to check if you have any room available?”

Hael, who was ahead of everyone else, asked sweetly.

“Yes. There aren’t any single rooms right now but there are 2 rooms available which 3 people can stay in. It’s a good thing you came here. Most of the inns around the city are probably full.”

The group had mixed feelings about getting the rooms and had to talk it over since there were two women and four men. However, they could not risk going to another inn and not be able to get a room.

“Let’s get the rooms first and decide on the room arrangements later.”

Ilran said to the rest of his party members and then asked the owner of the inn to get the rooms and dinner ready.

“Yes sir. Both the guest rooms are on the second floor. Lia, please lead the guests to their rooms.”

“Yes, father.”

A cute looking girl serving some food approached them. She had red hair and was around the age of 19.

“Please follow me.”

Said Lia and ushered Id and his party to their guest rooms. Id immediately put his bags away and went down to the dining room.

And then Lia approached Id and asked.

“What would you like to have? I recommend today’s original dish called Elminin.”

"Umm... Then three Elminine, six stews with beer. Does anyone wants to order more food? Id, Irlina, would you also like to have beer?"

"No, thank you. I would like to have white wine."

Irlina ordered a drink but Id did not know what to order because he didn't know what the two drink they ordered were.

'Ugh~ How am I supposed to order if I don't know what they are.'

"What would you recommend for me?"

Just then, Lia answered Id's question in the most shocking way.

"Then the Lady should also have some wine."

At Lia's words, several people from the party bursted into uncontrollable laughter. In the end, Grey explained to Lia.

"Lady, Id here is not a woman but a man. Although, in the beginning we were also shocked to find out... Anyway, he's a man. Hey Id, eat food while drinking some cold beer. It's good... So we'll have five beers and one white wine."

Lia quickly apologized to Id, took Grey's orders, and retreated quickly.

In truth, this was not the first time Id had been mistaken for a woman.

Just like the first town they stayed in, Id was mistaken for a woman and almost went inside the girl's bath accidentally (Author's Note: Or was it?) and left in the hurry to prevent any commotion. But there was none.

There had been many other cases where Id was mistaken for a woman.

Nevertheless, Id did not get angry. He was already used to it for it happened quite often even in his hometown.

You ask, why has Id been mistaken for a woman more than one or two times in the Middle Kingdom?

'Damn it. This is all because of Angelic Jade Form Perfection (Seonnyeo Oghyeong-gyeol) and Form of the Celestial Jade Dragon (Geogida Oglyongsimgyeol)... I must have been insane. Why did I learn those techniques, and then get myself in this situation.'

Back in Middle Kingdom, Id learned the skill Angelic Jade Form Perfection from

a book.

Mastering the skill made his outer appearance more woman-like. Although Id tried to stop the effect of the skill, his efforts were in vain.

The effects of the Angelic Jade Form Perfection not only changed his outer appearance, but also his bone structure. Besides, Angelic Jade Form Perfection was a skill intended for only women to learn.

That was why Id learned a skill intended for men, Form of the Celestial Jade Dragon. However, something even more unexpected happened after learning the skill.

Because of the skill Angelic Jade Form Perfection, caused Form of the Celestial Jade Dragon to further alter Id's outer appearance making him look even more feminine.

Beautiful enough to put the looks of real women to shame.

In addition, Id's hair was so long, its length reaches his hip. He did not want to cut it because he thought it would be a waste, since he has grown it for a long time, which only caused him to look even more feminine.

"Id is truly lucky. He looks prettier than any woman."

'Grey must really not fear for his life.'

"You... Ugh... Do you not want to learn Boh Buhb anymore?"

"N... No. I mean you look really handsome. It was a misunderstanding..."

'If he truly wishes to learn, why is he trying to get me mad!'

As a swordsman, Grey really wanted to learn Boh Buhb from Id because no one else he knew, knows such skill. That was why he retracted his earlier comment...

Soon, Lia arrived with their beer and white wine, followed by the original duck dish, Elminine. As Lia set the dishes down on the table, she took another glance at Id, puzzled. She tilted her head as if she was thinking...

'Ah... No matter how I look at it, he looks like a girl.'

After finishing their meal, the party discussed their plans for the day over a glass of beer.

‘Mmm~ This drink they call beer taste pretty good. It’s cold but not too strong. Delicious ^^’

“Since it’s already past lunch time, let’s take a look around and then rest. We can head for the temple tomorrow morning. We will decide what to do for the rest of tomorrow after we visit the temple.”

Without asking for the other party members’ opinion, Ilran decided on their plan for the day. Because the plan was more or less simple enough, there was no need to object, right?

¹Boh Buhb – The mastery of the ability to move. This includes running and flying. It has been said that once Monks have mastered this, they are able to move instantaneously. – Taken from EGScans.org

²Dop-gong-neoung – Silently walking on air, similar to Boh Buhb.

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Chapter 2

This chapter is brought to you by AnmesicCat and Masadeer.

This chapter has been sitting in our Google Drive, untouched, for far too long. Therefore, as a surprise, here's chapter 2. If you noticed, we've combined 6 parts into one large chapter. Enjoy your read.

Chapter 2

"Now~ Since everyone has finished eating, please gather at a vacant lot."

"Ah~ Id I'd be happy if you let us off today. We have already memorized everything you have taught us so far."

"Exactly. Since you have already memorized it, you are going to apply it. Go to a vacant lot already."

Id brought everyone outside and found a large vacant lot right beside the inn.

"It's time for the final test. Please make use of what you've learned of Boh Buhb so far to move as fast and agile as you can."

After Id finished explaining what they needed to do for the final test, each person in the party performed everything they have learned and as fast as they could.

'Hmmm, not bad. They'll be alright with using it. Irlina, however, almost mastered the skill perfectly. She could easily dodge normal attacks without using Ki.'

Just like he said, Irlina certainly moved extremely faster. Though that was only the perspective of everyone in the party. She even created a slight after images when she moved.

'Maybe she's fit for Heart/Mind (simbeop) method? There probably won't be anyone amongst them who could catch up to Irlina when she masters the skill. Although, there probably isn't anyone who can catch her even now.'

“Now~ This will be enough. Please go back to the room.”

Although people didn’t know what Id was saying, they followed Id upstairs for now. The group gathered around in the room.

“It seems like everyone has gotten used to Boh Buhb. Now I will teach you how to use Ki, the mana, using Boh Buhb as an example. But to do that, first you need to learn how to manipulate mana.”

“I’m guessing manipulating mana is different from magic?”

“Of course it is different. If Wizards also knew how to use it, , there would be no need for swordsmen.”

“Then how do we do it?”

“You guys won’t be able to understand it if I just explain it. So I thought of a way of using the skill Boh Buhb to help slowly you operate the mana inside your body. By then, you guys should remember the flow of mana and be able to operate it yourself”

It sounded like a good idea. However, Ilran misunderstood Id and though he was talking about using his own mana to manipulate another person’s mana flow, so Id said.

“You don’t have to worry about that. There’s no way I would ask for the impossible. Also, something good might come out of this.”

“Huh? What good thing do you mean?”

“Grey, don’t be too hasty. You will know once you’ve tried it. So, who would like to go first? Would you like to try first, Grey?”

Grey looked around at the rest of the party members and then nodded.

“Alright! Then come sit down in front of me. Remember to keep your posture relaxed and position your legs like this... Yes, and position your hands like this... Good. Now close your eyes and sit still. When you feel something moving inside your body, you have to remember the movement well.”

After making Grey sit in a Zazen posture, Id laid his hands on Grey’s back and performed the most secure method of Heart/Mind (simbeop) called Diamond Zen Method (Geumgangseon-do).

The reason why Id choose Diamond Zen Method was because simpeop has the least chances of causing internal body damage and it also cleanses both body and spirit, which increases Ki circulation (nae-gong).

Thirty minutes had passed since Id had laid his hands on Grey's back. Id then got up. However, Grey still remained in the same position.

"Grey has gone into the highest point. Now, who would like to go next?"

Id ask as quietly as possible.

Hael looked at Grey, who was currently in the nature of spiritual state of perfect selflessness, looked at Id and asked for an explanation.

"That's because inside Grey's mind, he is currently moving the flow the mana that he has inside his body. You don't have to worry about him."

When Id finished answering Hael, Ilran, and then Hael entered the nature of spiritual state of perfect selflessness. The only ones remaining where the non-humans: Randolph, the Dwarf, and Irlina, the Elf. Soon after, Randolph also entered the nature of spiritual state of perfect selflessness. Irlina was the only one left.

"Id, is it possible for non-humans such as Elves and Dwarves?"

"Of course. Randolph is doing it without any problems."

"Then how long are they going to be in that state? Grey has been sitting in that position for over an hour."

"It varies upon the person. Usually, an average person will have to sit in that position for about five hours. So you don't have to worry."

Finally, Irlina sat down. Irlina, just like Randolph, had acupuncture points slightly different compared to humans.

"Whew~ It's finally done. They are going to be staying in that position for a while. Should I go to bed and get some sleep?"

Dawn was fast approaching, yet not a single one of them woke up. Right after dawn had passed, Ilran was first to wake up.

The first thing Ilran saw after waking up was Id, who was sitting on a bed, eating soup while observing him.

“You woke up. Would you like something to eat?”

“No, I’m fine. By the way, what time is it now? No one else has woken up yet?”

“Yes. Ilran is the first to wake up, and is the first to finish meridian. And right now, it’s around five o’clock.”

“Five o’clock? Then this must mean I was sitting like this all night long? Unbelievable. It didn’t feel all that long... But why isn’t Grey awaking up?”

“It’s because Grey has more Ki circulating his body than Ilran. Since you are a Magician, you don’t need to discipline your body, whereas Grey is a Swordsman. That’s why he has more Ki than you. In any case, he should be waking up soon.”

Ilran started to get up while he was listening to Id, and felt as if the weight his body had gotten lighter. In addition, his mind felt clear and his body felt young again.

“What is going on Id? My body feels light and my mind is clear...”

“By reaching Meridian, your body has evenly distributed your mana throughout your entire body, making it feel lighter, and also cleared your mind. That was the positive thing I was talking about before.”

As Id and Ilran were having this conversation, Grey and Hael both woke up.

They both woke up with exactly the same expression as Ilran, and asked the same question...

About an hour later, Randolph woke up, followed by Irlina a few seconds later. And again, they asked the same questions as Ilran. Id gave them the same answer for the third time.

“Now that we’re all awake, let’s go down and eat so we can go to the temple.”

After eating breakfast, the group gathered in the yard again because it was too early for them to visit the temple.

“You guys all remember what we did last night, right? It’s good idea to do it whenever you have the time. But you have to remember to do it in a quiet place,

where no one will interrupt you. Because as you are circulating your mana, your body will receive heavy internal damage if you get injured. Especially you Grey, you should do this as often as possible, since it'll shorten the length of your path to becoming a Swordmaster."

"WHAT?! It that really true?"

'He gets so happy whenever I mention 'Swordmaster'.'

"Now, try performing Boh Buhb, just like last night. It will be a lot different from yesterday's so be careful. It'll feel different, but you're doing it correctly. Try not to hit anything..."

After hearing about Swordmasters, Grey went first. Id said to Grey, who was positioning himself in the center of the yard.

"Listen carefully Grey. From now on, the Ki from last night will automatically move on its own when you perform Boh Buhb, so don't be confused and don't panic when you move too fast, and stop."

After Id finished talking, Grey nodded his head as a response and performed Boh Buhb.

In the beginning, Grey had his doubts on how fast he could actually move, until he started seeing the sceneries and wind blowing past him, without feeling tired. Everyone except for Id was surprised at Grey fast movements.

After Id saw Grey's fast movements, he thought it to be acceptable and asked Grey to stop.

"Grey that's enough. Stop!"

Suddenly, Grey stopped in front of the rest of his party, with an excited expression.

Grey's face was filled with bliss. He had never dreamt he would meet such a great companion during his adventure, and learn amazing things. Even if this was all he learns in his journey, he had already gained a lot.

"Thanks a lot Id!"

“You don’t have to thank me. Since we’ll be travelling together, teaching you is not much of a big deal, right?”

‘I’m just trying to make it easy for myself later on. It gets really annoying when there’s people hindering me.’

“Now, try it one by one.”

As Id asked them to, they performed Boh Bubh, and were very pleased with the results.

Randolph especially, was extremely pleased, with tears running down from his eyes. Because he was a Dwarf, it was impossible for him to move quickly without using any magic.

However, there was one person who was ruining the moment...

“Hahahaha... Look at that... Fuuu... Kaa... T-the Dwarf is actually running...”

It was Ilran. He was laughing as he watched Randolph running. Although if others saw him, they would find it rather amazing. But because everyone in the party learned it, and because Ilran was Randolph’s long-time friend, he laughed after seeing Randolph.

Because of that, Randolph took out his axe and starting swinging it.

“I think it’s time for us to head off to the temple.”

After Hael commented, the party realised what time it was, and left the inn.

Because the party were busy while they were in the inn, they walked leisurely while sightseeing around the streets.

“Whoa. It seems they are all prepared for the event. It will be one incredible festival. When does the festival start? Ilran?”

“The event will be starting today, Grey. Yesterday was the eve of the festival, and today will be the start of the festival. It will continue on for the next three days. There will be lots to see, including the highlight of the festival, the Academy of Magic’s Magic tournament. The champion of the competition will instantly receive an increase of rank. There will also be prizes, which is the reason

why Magicians from outside the city comes here to participate... I wonder, what do you think the prizes are for this year?"

"Really, Ilran? When does it start? When should go see it."

Grey asked earnestly.

"That? I think it will be starting today and ends tomorrow? But I'm not really sure of the exact time. We should go to the temple and come back quickly. Lets go see the battle."

'Hm~ I should go see the competition as well, since I haven't clearly witnessed magic ever since I came here. It's going to be fun.'

Soon, the party arrived at the entrance of one of the Holy Temples. It was the temple of the God of Water and Forest whom Hael serves; the Temple of Ilian.

Rather than blindly visiting a random temple, it was better to visit the Temple of the God whom Hael serves. Soon after, a young Priest came and welcomed the group.

"What is the purpose of your visit?"

Hael went ahead and answered the Priest's question.

"Nice to see you, Father. We would like to request a meeting with the High Priest. Oh, and we would also like to purchase some healing potions."

"Ah, there's a follower of God of Ilian here. Please wait a moment. I will send a notice to the High Priest."

After a while, the Priest returned with a word from the High Priest of his agreement of speaking to them, and led the party to a small hall inside the temple. Inside, there was an old man with a long beard adorned in blue clothing.

"May the gentle breeze from the mountains be with you. Hmm. So I heard there was something you need to see me for? Please come in and sit down."

The High Priest spoke formally despite of the fact he looked older. After the party had sat down, as expected, Hael spoke.

"I am Hael, a Priest from a temple in the town of Sillion. We came here

because one of our party members needed to meet with the High Priest.”

“Is that so? Which one of you needed to see me?”

“Please, you don’t have to be formal with us. My name is Id. First, the question I’m about to ask might be rude and offend you, but can the High Priest hear the voice of God Ilian?”

“Hmm. It’s a difficult question. To hear God Ilian’s voice directly... I’m not sure how to respond. Unless He really needs to, He does not send any revelations. That’s the reason why He hasn’t said anything to anyone for nearly a hundred years. The situation is similar to other temples. So I haven’t personally heard His voice. But if it’s a question he might answer, you will receive an answer through Priest Hael’s prayers.”

‘What? Since I can’t cause any trouble here, I should just ask Hael. So I didn’t even have to come here?’

“I see. Thank you for answering, High Priest.”

“You’re very welcome. But is that all the reason you came here for? Or did you have any other questions...”

“No. That was all the question we had. Thank you very much. I hope we didn’t bother you.”

At the end of Id’s remark, the High Priest smiled warmly.

After meeting with the High Priest, the party bought some healing potions and left the temple. They walked towards the city to watch the festival.

The entire city seemed to be in a festive mood as there were loud noises, with many people wandering around.

Since it was almost lunch time, the party decided to find a restaurant to eat. They also heard that the festival’s highlight, the magic competition, starts at one in the afternoon.

Id and the rest of his party entered a restaurant named ‘Afternoon with the Faeries’. And because of its popularity, all the tables were almost occupied. Thankfully, Id and the others were able to find a big enough table for them

inside. They sat down and started ordering food.

“Then I’ll get this, mixed vegetables and a glass of cold beer.”

“I’d like this, that, a beer... and this too.”

The party ordered food and drinks by pointing out things inside the menu. Among them, it was Grey and Randolph who ordered the most.

“Now~ Let’s hurry up and eat so we can leave this place quickly.” Said Grey.

‘Grey seems like the type who plays way too much. He looks like he doesn’t know a lot of things, just like me, who came to this city for the first time.’

The situation was exactly as Id had thought. Although Grey and Hael heard things and knew more about the festival than Id, however, just like Id, it was also their first time actually seeing it happen.

In fact, just like Id, it was the first time for Ilran, Irlina, as well as Randolph to visit this city.

“Grey, when will you ever stop showing off that you’re from the countryside? Stop it!”

Hael prompted Grey with a yell after feeling embarrassed with his actions.

“Why Hael? It’s your first time to visit this city too. Don’t you also want to see it?”

“Yeah it is, so be quiet and start eating.”

Grey had finally calmed down after Hael talked to him with sharp glares.

Id, who was watching Grey, gave him a sympathetic look.

‘Grey... It seems like he’s completely tamed by Hael... I guess it’s the same for me too? ^^;;’

After the party had finished their meals, they leisurely drank their beers and wines.

“Since we still have 40 minutes before the start of the magic competition, why don’t we go shopping? I still need to buy a dagger.”

After the party agreed with Irlina’s suggestion, they stood up and left the restaurant.

The streets around the marketplace seemed to be two or three times more busy than usual because of the festival.

Irlina entered the weapon store to buy a dagger. The weapon store they entered looked like an old store. Inside were various type of swords and armor lined up. And in one corner, there was a middle-aged man who seemed to be the owner of the store.

“Welcome. What might you guys be looking for?”

The owner said with an inviting smile.

“I am looking for a dagger I could use. Do you have any recommendations for me? I prefer light-weight ones.”

“Hmm... A dagger for an Elf... Please wait here for a second.”

After saying that, the owner went inside a room. He came out a few moments later carrying a box. Inside the box were many different kinds of daggers.

“The daggers that are currently on display are pretty heavy, but there are also light-weight ones, which are mostly used as a fashion. But these here, inside the box, are made and bought for their utility. Take a look and let me know if there’s something that interests you.”

As the owner was talking, he showed the box filled with daggers to Irlina.

Irlina, who was in need of a dagger, examined each of them carefully, while the others browsed through them as well. Id also examined the daggers since he didn’t possess a dagger.

Before long, Id picked up a dagger with a white flower emblem embroidered on it.

The dagger he picked up was a little longer and thinner compared to the other daggers, although not by a large margin. The handle was covered with leather, which attracted Id’s attention even more. He felt a ‘cool’ feeling as he picked it up.

Right then, Id heard a beautiful voice, which seemed to be resonating inside his heart.

[Id-nim, I found magic fluctuating inside the sword you’re holding. But the

magic seems to be sealed.]

Id was bewildered for a brief moment as he heard the voice coming from deep inside him, but he soon thought of Lamia.

‘I was surprised. But then again, it’s probably because I haven’t spoken to her since I left Greydrone’s lair. Besides, who would think of talking to a sword? And it’s a magic sword at that!’

‘Lamia, can you find any other magic swords here in the store?’

[Yes, it’s possible. I will try to find it now. Detect Magic Hard Blade.]

[Found them. There are two other swords. I will send the images to your eyes.]

‘There are two other magic blades in the store? What kind of store has that much magical items? Then again, this store probably purchased a lot of things.’

Soon, Id saw two other blades glowing in blue hue, and immediately picked them up. One of the blades was a simple dagger, while the other was a dirk with one sharp edge. The dagger was light-weight, it was exactly the kind of dagger Irlina was looking for.

“Mister, I’ll buy these three blades. Irlina, you can use this dagger. It’s pretty light.”

Without asking for his party members’ opinion, Id bought the three blades. All the weapons Id bought was purchased from elsewhere. The totaled price of the three weapons was about 50 Silver.

(The monetary unit in this world is as follows: 1 Silver, 1 Gold, 1 Rune. 100 Silver is equal to 1 Gold, and 100 Gold is equal to 1 Rune. A typical family’s monthly spendings was about 20 Silver. A Rune is mostly used by the Royal Family members and Nobles, and was almost never used by commoners.)

However, when Id exchanged a jewel in the last village, he received 10 Rune. So for him, 50 Silver was not a problem.

“Here’s 50 Silver. Could I see other swords you have in store, and armor as well?

Since Id was able to find three magical weapons, he wondered if there were any other magical items inside the store. Although Id did not know the true value

of the items, he had a general understanding it was pretty expensive.

However, Id did not know the total value of the three swords he bought was already close to 1 Rune.

After all, if people knew they were magical items, and because of their rarity, people will not sell them off readily.

Id only knew magical items were rare and very expensive, because he remembered Grey telling him about them.

“Of course you can take a look at the items in store. Not only the ones in display, but also the ones in the storehouse.”

“Thank you, Sir.”

Id talked to Lamia while looking around the armor and swords in the store.

‘Lamia, is there any more magical items here?’

[No. It seems like there isn’t any more magical items in here.]

“It seems like what I’m looking for isn’t here. Can I take a look at the items inside?”

“Of course. Please follow me.”

While following the owner inside, Grey asked Id.

“What are you doing Id? We don’t need any more swords. And armor? Are you going to wear it?”

‘He sure talks a lot. Not to mention, it’s going to benefit him as well.’

“Be quiet. We’ll never know, we might get lucky today.”

“What on earth are you talking about? You better answer properly and not get a Dwarf annoyed!”

“I will answer your questions once we are out of the store. So just wait until then!”

The place where the owner led Id and his party members, was a storehouse. Inside the storehouse, there were various swords, armor, and other types of weapons lying around.

“The place is a little disorganized, but I hope you can find whatever it is you’re looking for.”

“No, it’s alright.”

‘Just how exactly is this ‘a little’ disorganized? Lamia, see if you can find them for me.’

[Detecting for more magic items... One magical item Id-nim is looking for has been detected. I will send the image of it to you now.]

Soon, Id saw a spot glowing in a blue hue.

Id walked to the spot and started digging. He then found a sword. It was a black LongSword. The scabbard of the sword had corroded, as if it has been there for a really long time.

‘Is this the only magical item here? Well, I guess it’s already an amazing feat to find four magical items in one single store. This sword is similar to the ones used in Middle Kingdom, so it shouldn’t be too hard to use!’

T/N: Middle Kingdom is where Id was from.

This man still does not understand /in detailed}, the true powers of his sword, Lamia.

“How much is this sword?”

“That sword is pretty old... So just give me 20 Silver for that. Wait here, I think I have a scabbard for that sword.”

‘Scabbard... Wait a minute. Lamia, is the scabbard of the sword directly linked with magic?’

[There isn’t any magic linked to the scabbard. Only the sword itself seems to be enchanted with magic.]

‘Hmm... Then I guess there’s no problem if I changed the scabbard. But what will I do with two swords?’

Id left the store after he received the new scabbard.

He then looked around and gave a command to Lamia.

‘Lamia, take a look around and see if there are any magical items around here.’

Id hoped for another lucky encounter, but the answer was as he expected.

[There are no more magical items here.]

“I guess it’s just because the store is old, that’s why he had weapons such as these. In any case, today’s a lucky day.”

“What do you mean it’s lucky day? You’ll have to tell what this is all about.”

Grey and the rest of his party members asked curiously.

“So here! Irlina, since it’s you, you can probably tell what kind of dagger this is, right?”

Confused, Irlina received the dagger from Id. But soon became bewildered and stared at Id with surprise.

“Why Id, this is a magic sword!”

“What! A magic sword?!~”

“It that true?”

Ilran took a look at the dagger and start examining it. Then he said.

“Hmm... It’s not a powerful magic, instead, it is enchanted with some kind of ‘Wind Blade’ magic. Still, it’s quite amazing. But Id, if this is a magical item, then the others are also...”

“That’s right. As you can see, all these weapons are magical items.”

“You’re amazing Id. But isn’t this called profiteering*? Those magical items are rare and very expensive...”

T/N: * It means making money/revenue by unethical/fraudulent means.

“I don’t think it really matters since the other party didn’t know what this weapon really was. And this dirk is for you, Hael.”

Again, Ilran examined the dirk and explained.

“This weapon is enchanted with shield protection magic.”

Id, then showed another weapon to Ilran, and asked.

“Ilran, do you know what kind of magic is in this sword?”

“Let’s see! I’m not sure for certain, but I think it has some sort of lightning magic such as ‘Lightning Bolt’ and protection magic.”

‘Should I also show him the other dagger? Nah, I’ll just ask Lamia about it, and since it’s sealed Ilran would probably not be able to tell.’

“Thanks Id, for giving me a magical weapon.”

Irlina and Hael came up to Id and showed their gratitude towards him.

“It’s nothing to worry about. Besides, I bought them for a cheap price, and I won’t need to use all these weapons, plus they’re just carry-ons. It’s about time we go and see the magic competition.”

“Right. Ilran, where is the competition being held?”

Grey asked Ilran as he looked at the magical weapons with envy.

“Let’s see... Ah, right. It’s supposed to be held right in front of the Magic Academy, where they built an arena. Come on, let’s go.”

Ilran, who was familiar with the city, lead the party to the venue.

However, there was something bothering Id. He had Lamia, there was also a dagger on his waist, and then there was the longsword, which kept bothering him.

‘Should I just give this to Grey? It seems like a waste even though I already have Lamia.’

While he was contemplating, Ilran led the group to the venue of the competition. It was close to the market, so it did not take long to get there. Although the competition has not started when the party arrived, the place was almost filled to the brim. The only place left vacant was close to the arena. People did not want to sit close up front because of the possible danger. However, to Id’s party, it was not a big deal for them since they had a Magician in their party — Ilran.

Shortly after, a few people came and sat near them.

One of the people was an old man who looked like a Magician, while the others were a Knight, a Swordsman, and another young Knight.

They seemed to know each other and started having conversations amongst themselves.

“Hello everyone. I am the headmaster of Greensylt Magic Academy and Lasillin Magic Academy. We will now commence the pride and joy of both academy, the magic competition.

The winner will receive a one class advancement and a Silver Rod. The runner-up will also receive one class advancement. However, Magicians and Swordsmen who are not enrolled in the academy are also allowed to compete in this magic competition. Therefore, I must emphasize that there must not be any bloodshed or any serious injuries.

Finally, for the winners who are not enrolled in any of the academies, will receive a scroll for Magicians, and a magical sword for Swordsmen. This sword is made by our Academy. It is enchanted with protection magic. Now, let the competition begin, and best of luck to all participants.”

As the headmaster finished his speech, fireworks blasted into the sky.

Swish... Swish sss boom boom

AnmesicCat: Yes, I know I suck at coming up with fireworks sounds...

“Now, please let me introduce to you the participants! The participants for the first round are students from the academy. Ruin and Crain! Let’s get this show on the road!”

After the introduction, two young men came up to the stage and greeted each other. They were both wearing Magician Robes.

The young man with shoulder-length blonde hair, Ruin, was first to attack.

“Fire Storm!”

True to its name, it was exactly like a storm of fire. Although every ‘raindrop’ was small and weak, its range was wide, thus it was hard to dodge.

“Water Blaster!”

The student named Crain tried to use huge streams of water to prevent fire raindrops from coming towards him and attacked.

“Water Shield!”

Ruin used the skill called ‘Water Shield’ to block Crain’s ‘Water Blaster’. This attack showed minor differences in their magic abilities.

‘It seems the guy named Ruin is better. Blocking water with water, making it seems like Crain’s attack got sucked in.’

Id was observing the battle with keen interest.

A few moments later, as expected, the guy named Ruin won by pushing his opponent off with ‘Wind Block’.

Unlike the first round, the next round was between two Swordsmen. They were both approximately 20 years of age, and they both stood shirtless on stage, with confident expressions on their faces.

‘There’s nothing special about them. Even toddlers back in Middle Kingdom have better skills than them.’

Just as Id had predicted, the fight was quite boring and ended quickly.

“What kind of match was that? Right Id? I can probably do better than that.”

“Yeah, yeah. I know.”

Soon, the third round started, right after a Magician and a Swordsman took the stage.

The Magician seemed to be a student of the academy, whereas the Swordsman looked like he has a mercenary in his mid-20s.

“Hmm... This match seems like it’ll be boring as well.”

“Id, what do you mean by it’s going to be boring?”

“Hael, if you take a look at the Magician, he looks very anxious, while the Swordsman looks very calm, which can only mean he has a lot of fighting experience. It also means he has fought with several Magicians before, whereas that Magician has zero combat experience. So it’s pretty easy to guess the outcome of the match.”

“Oh? Surprisingly, the *Lady* knows her stuff”

Right when Id finished explaining, the young Knight, who was sitting next to them, started talking to Id.

Although Id was mistakened as a girl, he did not get angry. He would have gotten angry if he was mistaken for a girl once or twice, but since it has happened hundreds of times, it was pointless to get angry.

“Ha~ It’s not that much of a big deal. And I’d also like you to know I’m not a lady.”

“Yeah? Ah... Yeah... I-is that so? My apologies.”

After he had apologized, he turned his attention towards the stage, however, his friend decided to jump in.

“Hey, did you really believe that? By saying she’s not a lady, she’s trying to tell you she’s not interested. Although, it’s quite weird to reject someone that way. You should keep pushing for it.”

“Hey, you better not do that...”

Although the middle-aged Swordsman was encouraging the young Knight, the middle-aged Knight tried to stop him. Judging from their conversation, they seemed to be close friends.

Although their conversation was not too loud, it was loud enough for Id and his party members to overhear.

They thought Id told the young Knight he was a man because he was not interested in him. Therefore they spoke loud enough for Id to hear their conversation, and attract his attention.

Overhearing their conversation, Id’s party members focused their attention on him. They weren’t paying attention to the match, since the Magician, just as Id had predicted, did not perform well. They were more interested in Id because he looked like he might explode at any time.

“You’ve said too much for us to hear. Granting you’re free to say whatever you want, you should never change another person’s gender.”

“No, No. The lady is only a bit upset. Don’t act like that. Despite his looks, he’s

pretty skilled, you know. He's also the son of Earl Klein, so he's from a family with good background. So don't hate him too much."

He answered slyly and smirked at Id.

'I really hate shrewd people like him...'

"What evidence do you have that proves I'm a girl? Why can't you accept the fact when I tell you I'm a guy? Who do you think you are?"

"Ho~ The lady is excellent with her words. Look, you don't have to get that angry. Besides, who's going to believe you're a guy with a lovely face and beautiful hair like yours?"

"Look mister. What is wrong with believing I'm a guy? And I've also heard a male Elf looks a lot more beautiful than me, aren't they?"

"Only because he's an Elf while you're a human. So your argument doesn't make sense."

"I will slash you if you continue saying that."

Id suddenly stopped using formal language. However, the other guy was still smirking slyly.

"The lady seems to know how to use a sword. That's great. The Klein family is a military family, so it's good for a wife to know how to use a sword!"

"Hey, I think you should really stop saying that..."

Just when Earl Klein was stopping his friend, Id sent out a punch. However, Id and the Swordsman were still three meters apart, a distance which could not be reached by a mere fist.

After Id had punched at the Swordsman, the Swordsman suddenly grabbed his stomach in pain, and stepped back.

"What the..."

"How did he..."

"Id..."

"H-how... From so far away..."

"Will you listen to me now? Excessively making fun of people will not help you

live longer.”

It seems this guy’s appearance had become small gossip...

However, no one was paying any attention to what Id had said. Everyone was busy watching Id and the fallen Swordsman. Soon, the Swordsman stood up and stared at Id, as if he forgot his stinging stomach.

“Lady... No, no... Just now, how did you do that? How can you punch and hit a person from that distance?”

‘So that’s what he wants to talk about? He should apologize first!’

“Why would I want to tell about about it? I don’t think I have any reason to do so.”

“Um... That’s...”

Id examined the Swordsman, who seemed to be embarrassed. The Swordsman knew he had no right to ask such questions after making fun of Id. However, the Knight next to him, Earl Klein, decided to interfere at that moment. He was also curious about how Id punched the Swordsman from a distance.

“Look young man, how about we stop this squabble and call it truce with this friend of mine. He didn’t have any bad intent. It seems you guys are here to watch the match, how about I buy you drinks after the match is over?”

Id calmed down a little after hearing Earl Klein’s suggestion. Since he wasn’t very angry to begin with, and since it was an Earl, who was talking to him, it was hard for him to remain angry.

“Since you’ve said it in that way, I’ve got nothing else to say. I’m sorry for attacking him earlier, so we can call it truce now.”

“Hahaha. That’s good. Then, let’s all sit back down.”

After everyone had sat back down, Grey and Ilran confronted Id.

“Id, how can you speak like that in front of an Earl?”

“Id, you’re lucky the Earl seems to be an easy-going guy. If it was some other Nobleman, they would have tried to kill you! So you better watch out from now on.”

"I will. I didn't know what an Earl is. Well, now that I have some slight idea, I will try to be more careful. But I'm not a citizen of this country (or any other country in this world), so I don't care about those kinds of things all that much. So please understand when things like this happens again."

Right then, a hue of white light exploded on the stage, and there was a sound effect of someone falling down.

When I looked at the stage, there stood one girl, who was surrounded by something, which emitted a bright white light. While of the other side of the stage, was a young man wearing a robe, laying flat on the ground. A few people ran towards the stage and transported the young man out of the stage. Meanwhile, the announcer reported that the girl had won the match.

"What? Ilran, what's that thing floating over there?"

"I think it's a spirit and that person looks like a Conjuring Magician."

'Conjuring magic?... Is that some sort of collecting the energy that makes up this world?'

The Knights who came to watch the Magician did a further explanation.

"That's the spirit of light, Laead. Although it belongs in the lower tier of spirits... I believe it has good destructive power. That person's name is Reinian Klein, Earl Klein's daughter, and this over here is Laint. She's his younger sister. We're actually here to see that girl participate in this competition."

The group all turned to look at the girl. Now that they examined her carefully, she does seem to look a little similar to Earl Klein.

With the end of the girl's match, the competition had ended for the day. She came down from the stage and greeted the Earl and the others.

"You did great Reina. Greet them as well. They are people we got to know while watching the competition."

The party hurried to introduce themselves first because they found it unacceptable to receive greetings from Nobility beforehand.

"Nice to meet you. My name is Ilran Howgun, a Magician. This Swordsman here is Grey Lanatus, a follower of Ilian, Priest Hael Ihsain, and this is my dear

friend Randolph Torciano. This person where is named Irlina, and this here is a friend who uses a sword named Lamia.”

Ilran introduced the party one by one. Only Irlina’s and Id’s full name was excluded because he didn’t know what it was.

“Nice to meet you all. I’m Reinian Klein. You guys seem to like adventures.”

“Yeah. I’m currently performing pilgrimage as a celebrant of Ilian, and travelling with them.”

“Ha~ Now that we’ve all introduced ourselves, let’s go eat.”

Earl Klein led Id and his party to his home. The location of his home was quite near to the venue of the competition.

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Chapter 3

This chapter is brought to you by AnmesicCat and Masadeer.

Cat has died from overworking. But ruthless Anons didn't let her rest in peace and revived her as a mummy. In short, Cat was forced into slavery and finished this chapter without sleep.

Chapter 3

While on their way to Earl Klein's house, the young Knight named Shoran and the Swordsman named Laint, paid special attention to Id, and held conversation with him through the walk. However, Reinian had not said a single word to the party. With exception from when she first introduced herself, she did not make an eye contact with the party.

'She looks very cold-hearted. She reminds me of Jung Woon's elder sister, Neng Wol, back in Middle Kingdom.'

Just like any other Noblemen's houses, Earl Klein's house was a huge mansion. Interesting enough, a Military Exercise Hall could be seen on one side of the mansion.

"Take a look at that Id. I guess it's true the Earl likes martial arts. I believe most Noblemen won't make those kinds of buildings."

"Why does it matter if he has one built or not? Not everyone has the same interest as others, right? If you have a closed mind, it'll be hard for you to learn the way of the sword."

"Hey! What does that have to do with learning how to use a sword?"

"If I said it does, then it does! Just be quiet and go inside."

Just as Id said, the rest of the party were already entering the door of the mansion.

Id and the others were first led to what looked to be a living room.

“Now everyone, please make yourselves at home!”

“Father, I will come back down later.”

The Earl’s daughter, Reinian, went up to her room and without delay, a maid brought out the tea and some snacks. Right when the maid was about to leave, Reinian came down from her room, wearing a new set of clothing.

“Let’s have a small chat. The meal should be ready momentarily.”

“Thank you very much for inviting us to dinner.”

As Ilran have mentioned before, Noblemen usually do not behave the way the Earl did. Most of them socialize with only fellow Nobles.

Nobles who associate themselves with commoners, such as Earl Klein, were rare. And of course, the fact that he has fondness for swordsmanship attributed to his behaviour.

Immediately when the tea was brought out, the Swordsman Shoran, asked the question he was most curious about.

“How did you do that thing earlier?”

Everyone suddenly turned around to face Id as if Shoran had just asked the question that was lingering in everyone’s mind.

‘He’s asked about it again! I thought magic is nothing extraordinary in this world... But then again, there’s currently two Magicians present who are curious about the same thing... It’s hard to explain... Hmm...’

“Father, what is he asking about?”

“Hmm? Oh Reinian, I guess you don’t know about it. Actually something like this happened... (explanation omitted by the author)... But no matter how much I’ve thought about it, I still have no idea how he did it.”

“Perhaps he used Conjuring Magic? I think it might be possible if you use the power of the Wind Spirit.”

‘Oh!~ Thanks a lot Lady. I will repay my debt later. No, no, wait. I have never

used any kind of Conjuring Magic (or any type of magic for that matter) before. What if they asked me to demonstrate it?’

“It’s not Conjuring Magic. What I did was... hard to explain. But have any of you ever seen a Swordmaster?”

“Hmmm yeah. Most of us here, has seen them before.”

“Then, has anyone seen a Swordmaster radiate Ki from a sword — a sword aura, before?”

“Yes. Shoran, the Royal Court’s Magician, Hagen, and I have seen it before. However, my son and my daughter have not. I’ve seen Marquis Gersi used it while we were on the battlefield.”

“Then that’ll make it easier to explain. What I did was similar. The only difference was I weakened and soften the aura to make it invisible and I used my fist instead of a sword.”

“Is it really possible? To radiate Ki by using a fist instead of a sword...”

“Then are you a Swordmaster?”

“Id you... never told us you were a Swordmaster.”

‘Oi, oi Grey, you’ve always been meddlesome, but did you ever ask? You should have noticed it when I was teaching you Boh Bubb.’

“Please ask questions one by one.”

The next person who probe a question was Royal Court Magician, Hagen.

“Then, does that mean you’re already a Swordmaster?”

“I am. But I’m still relatively weak.”

The next person who asked a question was the Swordsman.

“Is that true? To radiate auras with a fist instead of a sword... I’ve never seen nor heard of such things.”

“I think your body’s first hand experience has answered your question.”

“Father, it’s probably a fabrication. How can such as young man who looks as old as I am, be a Swordmaster. Even Father has yet to reach the level of a

Swordmaster. He must have used a spirit.”

“Reina! Don’t say such things to the guest! I’m very sorry for what she’ve said.”

“Father...”

“That’s enough Reina”

“No, it’s alright. Please don’t worry about it. Everyone else also seems to be having a hard time believing it.”

“See Father? If he really was a Swordmaster, he would have shown us evidence and not let it go like it was nothing.”

‘Che! Is it really that hard to become a Swordmaster, enough to make such a big fuss about it? Should I show them some evidence?’

“Come on Id. Show us.”

‘Grey... This guy... Well then...’

“Alright, okay, I got it.”

Id took out a slightly long sword he bought from the weapon shop. It was still sheathed and had leather wrapped around the handle. And because it hasn’t been trimmed, the shape of the scabbard was ambiguous.

Id slowly unsheathed the dagger.

The dagger’s blade was milky-white in colour, engraved with beautiful patterns.

Id stared at the dagger for a moment and poured Ki into it. However his Ki was not penetrating the sword easily.

‘Huh? This is weird. What’s happening? Then a little stronger this time...’

[Id-nim, if you keep forcing your Ki into the sword, it will explode along with the seal inside it.]

‘Oh right, the seal. Can you remove the seal, Lamia?’

[Yes. Would you like me to do it now?]

‘... No. That Magician will take notice of the magic sword and he’ll point out that it’s not my own ability...’

Id returned the dagger back to its sheathe. Ignoring the curious looks of the people around him, he picked up a small stick in front of him and poured his Ki on it.

A bluish blade-looking aura appeared surrounding the stick. And at the same time, the onlookers gave a sudden burst of “Ah” and “Oh”.

Id then used the stick and sliced the glass ashtray sitting on top of the table. After he retracted the bluish blade on the stick, he touched the ashtray slightly, and it split exactly in half.

Both sides of the ashtray was cleanly cut.

“Amazing! Although I don’t know much about it, that right there, is at least the beginning of being a Swordmaster. Fantastic! But... I have never seen the Marquis radiate Ki with his fist!”

“That’s right! I’ve never heard about it either.”

“In any case, it’s amazing to reach the level of a Swordmaster at such a young age. Now, let’s go and have dinner.”

The Earl led everyone to the dining room and introduce them to his wife. And then they ate dinner... ^^\n

After they had finished eating their dinner, Id and his party bid farewell to the Earl and the Countess.

“Thank you very much for inviting us.”

“It was nothing! Then, see you again tomorrow at the stadium!”

The group left the Earl’s house and walked towards their inn.

“Grey, what did they mean by the beginning of a Swordmaster?”

Id did not understand when the Earl said he was at a level of a the beginning of a Swordmaster.

“That... I’m not quite sure myself... Do you know, Ilran?”

“Oh that? Why, of course! Being a Swordmaster means one can use Ki. At Beginner level, you can only pour Ki into your own sword to increase its

sharpness and become somewhat resistant to magic.

At an Intermediate level, you can form shapes using Ki. So if an Intermediate Swordmaster wants to, he can turn a rapier into a longsword by covering it with his aura. Although they can make it longer or bigger, no one does that because it wastes a lot of Ki.

At Advance level, you can send out the aura surrounding the sword to attack enemies from a distance.

And above all levels is the Great Silver, who can use sword auras to form something similar to a sword, and also transform it into something that fits your preference.

As far as I know, there has only been one or two who reached the level of a Great Silver.

Currently, there isn't any Great Silver, and there are only ten who are at an Advance level Swordmaster! I've also heard there's another stage above Great Silver, but I'm not sure what it is..."

"Is that so? Then Ilran, do you know who the two Great Silvers were?"

"Well... One of them was from five hundred years ago. The founding King of Railon Empire, The Hero, King Zion McReluger.

The other person was from about two or three hundred years ago. His name was Maximillion. However, not much was known about him. His nationality was unknown, and he did not form any dominion. He continued doing whatever he wanted to do, and journeyed looking for adventures. From what I've learned, he did not commit any criminal acts, of course.

That's all I've learned from having relations with knowledgeable people. So if you want to learn more about them, you'll have to search and read some historical books!"

"Ilran... The last sentence you've said sounded like bragging."

"What could you be talking about?"

"You said it yourself: KNOWLEDGE-ABLE people."

"Cough, cough That's..."

“Ah, let’s stop there. Ilran, Grey, we’ve arrived at the inn.”

Because Id and his party already ate at the Earl’s house, they decided not to stop at the restaurant and head off to bed early to watch tomorrow’s matches.

“You’re running a little late today.”

“Ah, Earl, you’re already here.”

Id and the rest of his party met up with the Earl and his group, who were first to arrive. Id and his party ran late because of a problem they faced in the inn’s kitchen. However, they were able to make it just in the nick of time before the matches began.

“Ah, that reminds me, I wasn’t able to ask you yesterday, but why did you not enter the tournament? With your skills, you could have won. The prize for winning magic sword, and they are very expensive.”

‘This Earl. Who cares whether or not I entered the tournament.’

“I wasn’t interested. If it’s a magic sword, I already have one.”

“Hmm? You already have one? They’re very valuable! Where did you get it?”

“Haha. I got very lucky. The sword I incidentally bought from a random weapon store happened to be a magic sword.”

Suddenly, the Earl and his group stared at Id with surprised expressions.

“Ha~ You’re right. You were significantly lucky...”

“Hmm! Do you think I can take a look at your magic sword?”

“Certainly. Here you go.”

Id took out his sword and held it out to Hagen to examine. Hagen looked at it intently because accepting it and pulled it out of its sheath.

“Although I don’t know much about swords, I can tell this particular sword is well crafted. It is enhanced with both attack and defensive magic. This weapon seems to be a masterpiece of a Rank 8 crafter. The attack power is fairly strong. You chose well. Treasure it. It is worth a considerable amount. It’s probably worth more than the sword given to the winner of the tournament.”

“Yes. I understand.”

Id accepted the sword back from Hagen.

However, Id was getting tired of putting the sword on his back. In addition, Id preferred to carry things such as swords in his hand rather than his back.

“Alright! I’ve decided. Since I have Lamia, and it’s a better sword, let me give it away... Although it’s a waste...’

With clear resolve, Id suddenly extended the sword to the person right next to him — Grey.

With a perplexed expression plastered across his face, Grey received the sword stretched out to him.

“What is it Id?”

“This sword, you can have it!”

“WHAT?! REALLY?! Can I really have it?”

“Yeah, it’s yours. Carrying two swords is too annoying!”

“But hey! This is a magic sword... ^~”

‘This guy... keeps asking as if he wants to return it even though he really wants it.’

“It’s yours. It’s alright... because I have another one!”

“You’re serious, right? No take-backs later on!”

‘Ha~ This guy is really childish.’

Earl Klein, who was listening to Id and Grey’s conversation intently, could not believe his ears.

Didn’t think it would ever happen... giving a magic sword to someone else. It was understandable if the person who was giving it away was on their death-bed, but to give it away because he was annoyed of carrying two swords...

Whereas the people in Id’s party had an expression that said ‘so that’s what you were going to do’. A couple of days ago, there was an incident where Id bestowed Hael and Irlina magical weapons right after purchasing them.

“Hey Id, do you really know what you just did? Magic swords are very valuable.

Are you sure it's alright for you to just give it away?"

"It's alright, Earl. Besides, I already have a different sword, and that sword doesn't seem all that useful to me. Also, we are travelling together so by giving him the sword, he will get stronger, so it'll be an advantage to me as well."

"Well, if you put it that way... Oh well. I guess there are all sorts of different kinds of people in this world..."

Right after the Earl finished talking, the matches started.

However, Id didn't seem to enjoy watching the matches. The quality of the competitors were pretty much the same as the day before.

Id stopped watching the ongoing match, pulled out his dagger and removed the leather that was wrapped around it. After he had finished unwrapping the blade, he saw its silver handle, with a jewel embedded inside.

'Hmmm, it's pretty. Lamia can you unse— ... No if it's unsealed now Mana will flow out of it and... Lamia can you put a magic shield around me so no one will notice?'

[Magic shield has been formed, Id-nim.]

'Thank you. Now, please remove the seal on the dagger.'

[Id-nim, please put down the dagger. If you hold it while it's being unsealed, you might receive recoil impact.]

'Ah! Don't worry about any recoil. Please unseal the dagger right away.'

Id immediately wrapped a defensive layer around his body.

[Id-nim's body is covered with a magic shield as well. With Id-nim's safety assured, I will now begin the unsealing process.]

'Ha~ So if my safety wasn't assured you won't unseal the sword?'

While Id was deep in his thoughts, the dagger in his hand started glowing with a blue hue, and suddenly started shaking vigorously. As seconds passed by, the light got brighter and brighter, absorbing all the dust and rust on the dagger. When the blue light dissipated, a fragrant scent of flowers filled the air.

[Id-nim, I've finished removing the seal.]

‘Hmm alright. But what’s this smell? I think it’s coming from the dagger...’

[It seems the flower owned by the Goddess of Flower, Elaiza, is inside the sword, along with various magic, granting it the ability to release the scent of flowers. Id-nim, this scent is for relaxing and clearing your mind.]

‘Aya! So it’s magic with positive effects. Thank you Lamia.’

[It’s nothing Id-nim. I’ll also be removing the magic shield now.]

‘She’s quite talkative today... She usually doesn’t talk unless I ask her a question.’

As Id pondered about Lamia’s sudden verbosity, he returned the dagger to the side of his hip.

“Hmm? What’s this smell? Doesn’t it smell like flowers, Irlina?”

“Yeah! But it doesn’t remind me of any flowers I know...”

“Hmmm? The fragrance is quite faint. Who sprayed the perfume?”

‘Ah, it seems they can smell the scent coming from the sword?’

“Doesn’t it smell nice?”

After they finished their discussion about the scent of flowers, the group returned their attention to the ongoing match. Right after the current match was Reinian’s match. Instead of a Magician, Reinian’s opponent was a Swordsman. It was the same Swordsman who easily won against a Magician in one of yesterday’s match.

“Hmmm! This would be quite a difficult match.”

The Earl said as soon as he saw the opponent. He was concerned a great deal more than usual because it was his daughter’s match. At that moment, the sound a the bell indicating the start of the match, rung.

The Swordsman carefully approached his opponent and began his inspection. Reinian also carefully examined her opponent. Without being noticed by anyone, the Spirit of Light, Laead was summoned.

Reinian drew first blood. She commanded the spirits to move from behind her to block the Swordsman in the front and both sides. However, the Swordsman did not show any expression of surprise or alarmed even when the spirits were

approaching him.

“Ah... If he just stands there, then the Spirit of Light will explode and he’ll be blown away by the impact of the shockwave.”

Ilran had predicted what would have happened to the Swordsman, he stood on the same spot, unharmed. The only difference was his sword radiating a faint blue hue.

“Hmmm... It’s a sword aura. He used his sword aura to exterminate the spirits, and when he did that, the spirits did not explode... Although he’s young, he is already in his beginning Swordmaster stage. Ahh, it seems Reinian will not be able to win this match. Earl...”

“It seems to be the case. Her opponent is after all, a Beginner Swordmaster. No matter how far she has mastered conjuring magic, this is her first combat experience.”

To prove the Earl and the Court Magician Hagen’s words, Reinian’s magic was blocked by the sword aura, preventing her from doing any damage to the Swordsman.

Reinian looked at the Swordsman intently and said.

“You’re amazing. Now then, I shall use my finishing attack. If you are competent enough to block this attack, I will forfeit the match. However, I warn you not to think about going up against this attack head on. It’s impossible for a beginner Swordmaster to block this attack.”

As soon as she finished talking, Reinian began casting her magic quietly, placing her spirits throughout the stage.

“Shinalenu Ayahena-nim... The ruler of water, I wish to borrow the powers of water. Spirit of water, Layla, with your powers, please annihilate the enemy... Perfect Water Blaster...”

As soon as Reinian finished chanting, she stretched forth her hand, and suddenly, a circle appeared around her hands, forming a magic circle. Coming out from the magic circle, was a humongous thick stream of water, flying directly towards the Swordsman.

To avoid a head on collision, the Swordsman ducked under the water attack, or else he would have been blown away.

The Swordsman's face showed a slight panic expression with beads of sweat forming in his forehead. He quickly grabbed a small pallet from his pouch, head it out and yelled.

"Fire Shield!"

Suddenly, fire covered the Swordsman's surrounding to form a shield of fire. As soon as Reinian's magic collided with the Swordsman, it caused a huge explosion. When the explosion started to subside, echoes of 'tzzz tzzz tzzz' sound could be heard, and because of the sound, a large amount of water vapour materialized. In the center of it all, the Fire Shield, had been destroyed.

Although Reinian's 'Perfect Water Blaster' appeared to be the stronger attack than the 'Fire Shield', the 'Fire Shield' absorbed some of the power of Reinian's attack.

The Swordsman, then radiated his Ki into his sword and cut the water blaster into halves. The weakened water blaster split into two different directions and evaporated. As soon as there was no trace of Reinian's magic left, the Swordsman charged into Reinian's direction, but then he stopped.

Reinian was sitting on the ground with a pale face, gasping for air. She seems to have used an excessive amount of magic.

"Ha...ha...ha... to block... that attack... ha... You're... very skilled."
"I... ha... ha... admit... defeat..."

With Reinian's words of surrender the referee announced the Swordsman as the winner. The Earl and Hagen ran down to the stage to escort her back. After the Earl carried her on his back, Hagen used recovery magic.

"Recovery."
"Thank you Hagen-nim."
"You're welcome. Now, please stand up."

Reinian held on to the Earl's hand as support and stood up. The Swordsman then approached her.

“Are you alright?”

“Yes, I’m fine. Congratulations on winning.”

“Thank you. It was a good fight. You fought well. My name is Rainel. And...”

The Swordsman gave his greetings to the Earl and left.

As soon as they finished greeting each other, the Earl and the others returned to where Id’s party was.

“You fought well Reinian.”

“Although your opponent this time was a little stronger than you, you did great.”

Reinian’s brother, Shoran, said to comfort her.

Id, however, remained seated, feeling awkward because there was nothing much he could have said.

“Take a seat here. After watching the matches, let’s go to any place you want and I’ll buy you everything you want today.”

“Hoho, Father’s very generous... Will you really buy me everything?”

“Of course!”

‘Haaa~... I’m getting goosebumps.’

Meanwhile, the next match had already begun. However, just like all the other matches, there weren’t any special contestants. Soon, it was the final match. In the finals were the Swordsman who defeated Reinian, and a Magician wearing a dark hood, hiding his face.

“Ilran, do you know that Magician? Earlier, he won by using an obnoxious technique called ‘Dark Shade’...”

Id was referring to the match the Magician had fought before. The Magician used the magic named ‘Dark Shade’ on his Swordsman opponent. The spell formed a black fog, and like a swamp, the fog slowly covered the Swordsman’s body.

Feeling horrified, the Swordsman surrendered and was able to leave the stage

with his life intact. If he had continued with the match, there was no doubt the man would have died.

"I'm not too sure as well. Quite a powerful Magician... With his amount of skill, he'll have no competition here. It's strange..."

On the arena, Rainel was cautious and instinctively felt his opponent was a strong one. Rainel started to build up his sword aura.

In the arena, more people began to gather to watch the final match.

The Magician started to move and used his magic.

"Dark Arrow."

As soon as the Magician casted the spell, beams of dark arrows started to fly in the surrounding area. The arrows were not just aimed at Rainel, but the spectators as well. The spectators began to panic and quickly evacuated.

However, the Magician immediately casted another spell.

"Fire Twister."

Blazing fire soon covered the surroundings. Rainel immediately used his sword aura to split the fire. However, the fire began to spread out.

Hagen urgently used his magic to cast a shield around his surroundings.

"That Magician is strange. The dark arrows earlier, and this time, the fire twister. Those spells were used to get rid of the spectators in the area."

"You're right."

It was just as Shoran said. The people moved far away from the center of the arena. The only people left in the front were Id's party and the Earl's, with a shield cast by Hagen covering them.

As soon as Shoran finished talking, the Dark Magician examined his surroundings and raised his hands, casting a spell.

"The Keeper of the Underworld, I call upon your power. Give me thy strength..."

Suddenly, at the top of the Dark Magician's raise hand, was a circular ball, summoning about a 13m long dark curtain. The group behind the shield rose

quickly.

“Klein, The situation looks grave...”

“I’m inclined to agree with you.”

“Hey now. What do you think you’re doing?”

While maintaining the shield, Hagen asked the Dark Magician.

Within moments, a voice resonated from inside the black hood.

“Kekeke... You don’t have to know. If you stay still and stand back, you will live to see tomorrow.”

The Dark Magician then yelled at another Magician on the opposite side.

“It’s been a long time, Lauri. 30 years has passed since you’ve last defeated me. I’ve been looking for you, and you were here all along.”

The express of the Magician Lauri, who heard the statement addressed to him, turned sour, and responded to the Dark Magician with uneasiness.

“Hmmm... So it was you.... Cleon.”

“Kekeke... I see, you’ve remembered me.”

“Is it for revenge?”

“If it wasn’t for revenge, why do you think I’ve searched for you? When you defeated me, I lost my magic and an arm. Revenge... Isn’t it obvious?”

“From your appearance... A contractor?”

“Why, of course. For I, who had lost my magic, have formed a contract with the devil to defeat you. How else could I triumph over you? Thanks to the contract, I’ve gained a tremendous amount of power. Kekekekeke.”

As soon as Cleon finished speaking with Lauri, he placed his hand in front of him. Suddenly, a black bolt shot out from his hand.

Then Lauri, an old Magician, casted ‘Haste’ to evade the attack. The place where he sat before, was sit with the black bolt and melted.

“You dodged it well. Good. I didn’t want to defeat you too easily.”

“Celestial Fire Ball!”

“Heh... With that level of magic, it won’t be enough.”

Cleon immediately drew a magic circle in the direction of where the fireball was coming from, and from his hand, a dark circle formed and swallowed the fireball.

“Cleon... How did you—...”

“There’s nothing to be surprised about. Spirit of water, answer my call and bestow a breath of cold air. Ice Spear!”

As soon as the incantation ended, spears of ice flew towards Lauri.

“Fire Shield!”

A wall of flame formed in front of Lauri to block the spears. However, two spears went through his defense and headed straight for Lauri. Lauri immediately dodged to avoid serious injury, but one spear still grazed his left hand.

With the exchange of attacks, the difference in strength between the two was established.

“Hagen, at this rate, that person, Lauri, will be in grave danger.”

“It seems it’ll turn out that way. The strength of his magic has been confirmed. In any case, it seems I need to help him out. Who can take care of the shield in my place?”

“I’ll do it.”

Ilran came forward and casted a shield.

“Amazing. Are you a Class 6 Magician?”

Hagen nodded at Ilran in approval, and looked towards the Dark Magician, Cleon.

Standing in front of Cleon, Hagen held out his hand and yelled.

“Fire Wall!”

Cleon was suddenly surrounded by a wall of fire. At that very moment, Lauri took the chance to take cover where Hagen was standing. Rainel, who was still

on the stage, ran towards Hagen and Lauri.

“Thank you. But if you do this, it’ll be dangerous for you.”

“It won’t matter. I don’t think the Dark Magician is capable of defeating the three of us.”

Even with Hagen’s reassurance, Lauri’s expression did not soften.

Cleon’s facial expression turned enraged. Suddenly, the fire wall surrounding Cleon had dispersed.

“I’m sure I’ve warned you that you will not be harmed as long as you stay put and not interfere. Since you did, does it mean you have a death wish?”

“Well, you can do as you wish as long as you defeat the three of us, but I don’t it’ll be possible for you. Also, I don’t think the people outside will stay still!”

Hagen spoke what was on his mind, and Cleon’s eyebrows creased.

“I’m sorry to disappoint you but... Whatever happens, happens. The curtain will not be open for long. Also, think about it. To accomplish my revenge, don’t you think I’ve put a lot of thought into this?”

“Klein and the others better be careful. It doesn’t look like this will end easily.”

“Eclipse of Darkness...”

Abruptly, darkness started to cover the top of the shield. It collided with the shield and sparks began to fly.

“At this rate, the shield will break!”

Ilran urgently told his companions and immediately asked Hael to use Holy Magic.

“Ariane-nim, heed my call, and please block the approaching darkness...”

A blue glimmer light scattered and Ariane came out from within the shield and attacked the darkness. With Ariane’s powers, the darkness retreated from the shield.

Hagen and Lauri took this chance and cast their spells.

“Wind Saber!”

“Light Magic Missiles!”

The darkness magic slowly disappeared thanks to Hael’s Holy Magic. Hael soon stopped casting her magic.

“We can’t be on defensive forever. If we don’t attack we’ll suffer.”

“You’re right. I’ll start it off.”

As soon as he responded, Lauri started his attack.

“Blade of fire, cut thy enemy, Fire Blade!”

All of a sudden, a blade made of fire appeared headed towards Cleon. Hagen followed after Lauri’s suit.

“Remnants of Hell, Ramui, destroy the enemy’s forces of darkness... Hell Explosion!”

Cleon blocked Lauri’s fire blade with his dark blade. However, Hagen’s follow up spell created magic circles around Cleon and it started to explode. Cleon flinched in pain. Because he had to block the fire blade, he was unable to block Hagen’s attack.

“Ragini Rookamun abide in your contract with me and cast your protection!”

Within moments, a dark enchantment appeared in the area, and the surrounding areas began to exploded.

“Dammit. It’s his contractor’s protection? But his contractor is Ragini Rookamun...”

“Isn’t he a high ranked demon? And of the darkness...”

“You right. It will be a very hard battle. But how did he manage to make a contract with Ragini Rookamun? To make a contract with him is very difficult, almost close to impossible, if you don’t have anything to offer to him...”

The fragments of dust in the air settled down, and a black curtain came to view. When the curtains opened, Cleon appeared standing in the center, and in both of his hands, were concentration of dark magic.

“Kekeke... You’re quite good. Dark Buster!”

Just then, the dark magic in both his hands fused together and flew towards

Hagen and the others.

“Is this the power of Ragini Rookamun? Then how about this... Flames of fire bestow your powers upon me... Flare!”

Then, streaks of fiery light flew out from Hagen’s hands. Both types of magic, light and dark, collided with each other. However, the power of light was pushed back.

Dark Buster, although it’s magic had decreased, it was still travelling quite fast. With its power and momentum, the shield Ilran casted will not be enough to sustain it.

Right when Lauri was about to chant to cast another magic shield...

“Lightning Bolt!”

“Wind Blade!”

“Shield!”

Although the powers of Lightning Bolt and Wind Blade were weak and they were vaporised by Dark Buster, the shield that was protecting them survived.

Because of this sudden attack, the Earl, Hagen, Lauri, Irlina, Hael, and Grey drew their swords. If the situation were to get worse, they planned on using their magic swords, which would not require any chanting, but just mana to activate.

